

JPRS 79461

17 November 1981

USSR Report

POLITICAL AND SOCIOLOGICAL AFFAIRS

No. 1192

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INTERNATIONAL

SOVIET POLICY IN MIDDLE EAST AIMED AT PEACE, SUPPORTS ARABS' INTERESTS

Moscow APN DAILY REVIEW in English 29 Oct 81 pp 1-3

[Commentary by E. Ryabtsev, NOVOSTI political analyst: "Soviet Policy Meets Interests of Arabs and Peace"]

[Text] The Soviet Union and North Yemen are convinced that the worsening of the situation in the Middle East results from the aggressive policy of Israel and its imperialist patrons. Leonid Brezhnev and Ali Abdullah Saleh were unanimous in their conclusion that a way to an early and all-embracing Middle East settlement lies through a relevant international conference with the participation of all parties concerned, including the PLO.

Both leaders believe that a just and lasting peace in the region can only be achieved if Israel fully withdraws its troops from all the occupied Arab territories and if the non-negotiable national rights of the Palestinians, including their right to set up an independent state of their own, are realised.

Thus, Moscow has again confirmed its intention to continue supporting the just Arab demands in asserting a lasting peace in the Middle East. The absence of peace only benefits the aggressor and claimants to domination in the area, said the Soviet leader. The opponents of Soviet participation in the settlement process show that they completely lack realistic vision and are politically myopic.

This year the Soviet Union played host to North Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh, statesmen from Libya, Kuwait, Jordan, Algeria and other countries, and also to a PLO delegation. This bears out that Moscow's stable ties with the Arab world are growing ever stronger.

The Soviet proposal on holding an international Middle East conference met with broad Arab support as a constructive alternative to the Camp David line. But Washington does not want to face reality. It still thinks it possible to manage without the Arabs and the PLO. Meanwhile, the fiasco of the Camp David process shows that participation of these forces is indispensable for the genuine solution of the Middle East problem which has creation of an independent Palestinian state as its matrix.

The USA's stubborn refusal to recognize the PLO points to Washington's stake in maintaining tensions in the Middle East. For this reason the "peacemaking" statements made by the Americans and other participants in the Camp David collusion are hypocritical and utterly false. How can one speak about defence of Arab interests, while openly ignoring the Arab opinion?

Typical in this respect is the assessment of the Reagan administration's current policy by one of the biggest Lebanese newspapers. It rightly noted that today the USA "views the Arab world as an American protectorate." This is really the case. As for US-Israeli "strategic cooperation," it is bringing blood, destruction and woe to the peoples of the Middle East, stressed Leonid Brezhnev.

Genuine security of Middle East countries cannot rest exclusively on US interests. This opinion is shared by most of the world's countries. The Vietnamese venture, the collapse of the Shah regime in Iran, the Camp David deadlock and Sadat's assassination were primarily brought about by Washington's imperial policy. But the US still wants to arrange Arab affairs as it sees fit, continuing to rely on force.

The statement of the Soviet leader to the effect that the Soviet Union has no evil intentions vis-a-vis the Middle East and other areas, again brushes off all sorts of insinuations about a mythical "Soviet threat." Leonid Brezhnev emphasized that the USSR is sincerely interested in a lasting peace in the Middle East, an area neighbouring on it.

But this is exactly what does not fit in with the Reagan administration's strategy of global confrontation. It becomes ever more obvious that certain quarters in the US think it impossible to assert their military and political domination in different parts of the globe without hotbeds of tension.

Therefore, while acting against Arab aspirations, the USA is turning the Middle East into what is to become a theatre of hostilities, which causes serious concern of the USSR and other nations. Today Washington's policy more and more clearly betrays the intention to sacrifice the lives of the Arabs and also other nations in the name of US imperial ambitions.

The fact that the Soviet Union has granted the PLO mission in Moscow an official diplomatic status, and its continued disinterested support for the just Arab demands bear out the readiness of the Soviet leaders to work for an early normalization in the region.

The importance of the Soviet Union's constructive role meets with growing recognition in the Arab world. This is graphically manifest in the development of Soviet-North Yemeni cooperation. Moscow's desire to have good relations with all countries in the Middle East without exception is an important factor contributing to regional peace, security and stability.

CSO: 1812/9

INTERNATIONAL

'APN' ON SOVIET BACKING FOR PALESTINIANS' CAUSE

Moscow APN DAILY REVIEW in English 22 Oct 81 pp 1-3

[Eduard Ryabtsev, Novosti Political Correspondent]

[Text] Relations between the Soviet Union and the Palestine Liberation Organization have entered a qualitatively new phase with the granting of official diplomatic status to the PLO Office in Moscow. Leonid Brezhnev has, by receiving Yasser Arafat, reaffirmed the wide-scale international recognition of this organization which is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

The Soviet Union's invariable support for the just struggle of the Palestinian Arabs for the establishment of a state of their own has more than once been stated by the Soviet leadership. This stand of Moscow is one of principle. It rests on a fundamental commitment of the Soviet state to invariable solidarity with the peoples in battle for their national liberation.

With the situation in the Middle East strained more than ever, Leonid Brezhnev's meeting with Yasser Arafat has taken on added significance. The action of the United States in creating a new seat of tension in the Mediterranean and Washington's attempts at interfering in the internal affairs of Egypt and other Arab countries have been destabilising the entire situation in this region, as have the outspoken threats against Libya and outright acts of provocation in the making against that country.

The Soviet leadership sees the escalation of the US militarist ambitions and Israel's growing truculence in the Middle East as the major cause behind the latest deterioration of the entire Middle East situation. The "strategic relationship" between Washington and Tel Aviv has made Israel the major instrument of carrying through the American plans to establish political, military and economic domination over the peoples of this region.

The whole idea behind it, it is worth recalling, is to keep encouraging Tel Aviv's expansionist policy, perpetuate the occupation, flout the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people and destroy the Palestinian Resistance Movement physically.

It is quite natural that Moscow should have once more rejected the attempts of the parties to the Camp David deal to substitute their speculation about the so-called "autonomy for the Palestinians" for the resolution of the overriding issue of letting the Arab people of Palestine set up a state of their own.

As Leonid Brezhnev pointed out during Muammar Gaddafi's visit to the Soviet Union, the Soviet state recognised the right of every people to settle their own home affairs without outside interference. Moscow would not agree to anybody having the right to establish any form of domination or hegemony over other countries or including them in the "sphere of interests" of any power.

This position of the Soviet Union is not allowing the US and its agents in the Middle East to make short shrift of the Palestinian Resistance Movement or trample the independence and sovereignty of all Arab peoples. The Soviet Union's invariable foreign policy with regard to the very principle of a Middle East settlement has long been an obstacle to certain American quarters bent on achieving their anti-Arab ends.

This policy acts as a deterrent and does not permit US imperialism to do away by military means with the governments not to its liking. By this token, the Soviet policy towards the Middle East is one of the major elements conducive to the security and stability of all Middle East nations.

The Soviet Union considers that a comprehensive and equitable Middle East settlement is the only possible means of resolving the extremely dangerous and drawn-out crisis there. Moscow believes it can be resolved by calling an international conference on the Middle East to be attended by all the parties concerned, including the PLO.

The Brezhnev-Arafat meeting and the very approach to the issues under discussion have once more demonstrated the Soviet Union's constructive and positive role in settling the situation in this region. Moscow's concern over the destinies of peace in the Middle East and its determination to have one of the most dramatic international problems resolved by political means are, as rightfully noted in Arab circles, a factor of paramount importance to check the reckless action of the US quarters preferring the recourse to force and intimidation.

This is the main conclusion to draw from the Brezhnev-Arafat meeting.

(APN, 21 October. In full.)

CSO: 1812/6

INTERNATIONAL

MUTUAL BENEFITS OF CONTINUING DETENTE STRESSED

Moscow APN DAILY REVIEW in English 1 Oct 81 pp 1-3

[Article by Vladimir Katin]

[Text] The question may perhaps be asked even more bluntly--does detente exist at all now? For it is generally believed in the West that the process of relaxation of tension between East and West has come to an end.

In our view, this is an erroneous way of looking at detente, although the process as a whole actually has slowed down and even come to a standstill in some areas. And all this is occurring not because detente, i.e., East-West cooperation in many fields, has ceased yielding dividends. No, the point is that there are forces trying to rock and even topple the edifice of this cooperation. Their home country is well known: it is the United States. American leaders, who want to create artificial tension in relations between the USSR and other countries, have of late been exerting unceremonious pressure on these states and their heads. What is the purpose of these actions?

The Reagan administration's foreign policy has imperial ambition stamped all over it. Washington believes that the USA is "responsible for all that is taking place in the world." Hence the practical conclusions from that policy: Western Europe is commanded, as if it were a vassal, to deploy missiles and accept high bank rates; in Africa, Asia and Latin America Washington is staging armed provocations. Given this tough course in world affairs, with stakes on power, nuclear missiles, and plots, it is natural that detente should not only suit Washington, but impede its actions. So the USA is deliberately worsening the international situation, trying to create or exacerbate crisis situations in the Middle East, the Persian Gulf, the Indian Ocean, the Caribbean and other regions. For example, together with Peking the USA is waging an undeclared war against Afghanistan. In Europe it is attempting to extend NATO by including Spain in it. It is all this taken together that has held up the process of detente, resulted in the deterioration of the international political climate and increased the danger of war.

And nevertheless detente is alive. What permits Moscow to draw such a conclusion?

For all its difficulties, for all its trials and tribulations, detente is still the main generator of relations between East and West, a fact which also influences relations of all other states in the world. First of all, the dialogue between the East and the West continues, that is, we have here a political component of detente in evidence. According to information available to us, regular correspondence at the summit level goes on, discussing pressing international problems. Only recently Moscow has been visited by foreign ministers of Belgium, Britain, and West Germany, as well as by Chairman of the Social Democratic Party of Germany Willy Brandt. There are arrangements for Leonid Brezhnev to visit Bonn at the end of the year. The other day Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko and US Secretary of State Alexander Haig met in New York. On November 30, Soviet-American talks on arms limitation are resuming in Geneva.

All these facts show that political cooperation is not dead, but continues, acquiring occasionally new forms or starting new lines. The Soviet attitude to political cooperation was summed up recently by Andrei Gromyko. Speaking at the United Nations, he said: "In the struggle to curb the arms race, to remove the war threat and to settle outstanding problems, the Soviet Union is prepared to march together with all states. We do not experience 'political allergies' to any partner, irrespective of differences in a social system or ideology."

This is also the context in which one should view the series of meetings, contacts and business conversations which Andrei Gromyko is having in New York with foreign ministers of dozens of other countries.

The efficacy of detente is further confirmed by the growth and not decline (which the USA would like to see) in trade, economic, scientific, cultural and other cooperation between eastern and western Europe. For example, Soviet-French trade has tripled in the past five years, with more than 300 topics in science, technology and culture under joint investigation. Soviet orders placed in Italy provide work for 100,000 people a year. Trade with West Germany, which as a trading partner of the USSR leads the capitalist world, has nearly doubled. A similar position exists in relations with other West European countries seeking cooperation with the USSR. In the view of West German Minister of Economics Otto Lambsdorf, who visited the USSR recently, the policy of detente has an undoubted future. He also stressed that a continued arms race and detente are not good bed-fellows.

All this taken together suggests that in spite of the difficulties in the world it is possible to raise the question of deepening detente. Such a formulation of the question, it is believed in Moscow, is realistic. So the Soviet capital hopes that when the Madrid meeting is resumed agreement will at last be reached on calling a conference on military detente and disarmament in Europe, on continuing the process started in Helsinki in 1975. For, as practice has shown, detente benefits equally the East and the West, which have both been using the fruits of that political course all these years.

CSO: 1812/5

INTERNATIONAL

PRC'S SUPPORT FOR TERRORISTS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA EXPOSED

Moscow APN DAILY REVIEW in English 16 Oct 81 p 1

[Article by A. Dalin]

[Text] Contrary to its assurances, China does not cease rendering support to the various terrorist groups operating in many South-East Asian countries.

Pro-Peking terrorists have noticeably intensified their activities in Malaysia. The scale of operations by Thai Maoists has increased. According to information available to the Philippine authorities, the pro-Peking "new people's army," which is based in that country, has started preparing for a "strategic offensive" as part of the policy announced by its leadership aimed at overthrowing the government of President Marcos.

The mode of operation by all those groups is one and the same: sabotage on roads and at economic facilities, and armed attacks on inhabited localities. Pro-Peking terrorists impose "taxes" on peasants, artisans and petty office employees, cruelly victimising those who venture to disobey.

It has been officially announced in the Philippines that terrorists continue receiving aid from abroad. There is ample evidence of Peking's assistance to subversive formations in other South-East Asian countries. (The article quotes the admissions made by their members who have surrendered themselves to the authorities).

On the tactical plane, the support it renders to the pro-Peking armed formations in South-East Asian states provides China with an important lever for putting pressure on the governments of those countries. Peking is actively prodding them towards creating a "united anti-Soviet front" and incites them to confrontation with states of Indochina.

Strategically, the newspaper emphasizes, the Peking leadership views the Maoist anti-government groups in South-East Asia as an instrument of carrying out its far-reaching expansionist designs.

CSO: 1812/5

INTERNATIONAL

PRC'S HEGEMONIST CLAIMS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA ATTACKED

Moscow APN DAILY REVIEW in English 12 Oct 81 p 1

[Text] China's expansionist activities--the build-up of its naval forces with the sphere of their operations ever expanding and the staging of frequent troop exercises, the recent one being the air and ground forces manoeuvres in the Yellow Sea, evoke increasing concern in the countries of South-East Asia.

Laying centuries-old territorial claims to Asian states, Peking still publishes maps where Malaysia, Singapore and part of the Philippines are defined as "temporarily lost territories." China's claims to vast sea areas are part of the hegemonists' general expansionist programme. The Maoists insist on their "right" to refer to the Yellow, East China and South-China Seas as "inland Chinese waters" and consider as their more than 200 islands in the area, belonging to various states.

Peking's laying hands over these spaces would mean the establishment of its control over the most important international trade routes connecting the Indian and Pacific Oceans and the possibility to dictate terms to South-East Asian countries for whom sea is the primary means of communication. In this case, experts say, hegemonists would establish their sway over rich oil and gas deposits. The appetites of the current Chinese rulers are still more greedy. The Indonesian newspapers wrote that back in the '50s Mao Tse-tung had observed in his close entourage that the Pacific Ocean would become really 'pacific' only when it were entirely Chinese. However, the peoples of South-East Asia do not share the Maoists' convictions. They consider that the Pacific Ocean will fully comply with its name only after no more sounds of Chinese sabre rattling have been heard.

CSO: 1812/5

INTERNATIONAL

BRIEFS

RIGHTWING TERRORISM—Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 12 September 1981 publishes on page 3 a 1,900-word Mikhail Ozerov answer to a reader's letter, under the heading "Traces of the 'Black Hundreds.'" Ozerov describes a terrorist bombing in Munich and goes on to discuss the activities of "ultrarightwing groupings" in the FRG, and also in Britain, Spain and Italy, stating that "we are faced with an increase in activity by the Western black hundreds, including some who have weapons and dream of using them as soon as possible." An "equally dangerous process" is the trend toward cooperation internationally among terrorist organizations. Ozerov goes on to discuss the attempted assassination of the pope, stating that the gunman had "omnipotent friends--ultrarightwingers," and that the attempt on the pope's life was "the latest international plot by reaction." He refers to the report in London's THE GUARDIAN alleging that the "'Eastern bloc countries'" were to blame, and states that this report was "completely refuted" by the Vatican. Ozerov concludes that "no anti-Soviet fabrications can conceal the obvious fact that the terrorists and blackshirts, Hitlerites old and new, are weaving plots" and that the "'black international' is steadily gaining strength." [Editorial Report]

CSO: 1807/8

NATIONAL

FRUIT, VEGETABLE MINISTER DESCRIBES MINISTRY'S WORK, STRUCTURE

Moscow LITERATURNAYA GAZETA in Russian 16 Sep 81 p 10

[Interview with USSR Minister of Fruit and Vegetable Industry Nikolay Timofeyevich Kozlov by Zoriy Balayan, special correspondent and writer: "From the Field to the Counter; A Single Administrative System, the Minister Feels, Will Result in the Constant Operation of the Conveyor Belt Carrying Fruit and Vegetables to our Table"; date and place not specified]

[Text] In the accountability report of the CPSU Central Committee to the 26th party congress, L. I. Brezhnev said: "Today the agricultural output has already led to noticeable improvement in the public supply of many types of foods. In the last 5 years, for example, annual per capita fruit and vegetable consumption increased much more slowly than the output. Losses were the main reason for this. Consequently, the continuous growth of the produce output must be accompanied by improvement in its shipment, storage and processing. This is the direct responsibility of kolkhozes, sovkhoses and the Ministry of Fruit and Vegetable Industry. Party and soviet organs in republics, krays and oblasts and the appropriate central agencies must give the new ministry maximum support."

Today we are directing our readers' attention to a talk our correspondent, writer Zoriy Balayan, had with USSR Minister of Fruit and Vegetable Industry N. T. Kozlov.

[Question] Nikolay Timofeyevich, let us begin with the main question--the question of the role assigned to the new ministry in the attainment of a major sociopolitical objective: the more complete provision of our country's population with foodstuffs.

[Answer] The union republic USSR Ministry of Fruit and Vegetable Industry, created on the personal recommendation of L. I. Brezhnev, is a tangible step toward the eradication of departmental differences between the production, procurement, storage, shipment, processing and sale of produce and toward the implementation of the food program outlined by the 26th party congress. The formation of a single large agroindustrial complex will make it possible to direct the efforts of all its links toward a truly adequate supply of fruit and vegetables.

[Question] What is the production structure of the ministry?

[Answer] Our system takes in more than 3,000 sovkhoses, which annually produce around 9 million tons of vegetables and 1.5 million tons of fruits and berries.

[Question] What percentage of the unionwide total does this represent?

[Answer] Approximately half.

[Question] This means that your system will produce half of the union total. What about procurements?

[Answer] We will procure more than two-thirds. After all, we also have jurisdiction over more than 400 production associations and plants in the canning industry with an output and capacity of up to 10 billion conventional cans, or 80 percent of the national total. We also have jurisdiction over a network of specialized stores, storage facilities and bases. Ministries of fruit and vegetable industry have been established in all republics.

Much of the responsibility for providing the public with food, including produce, has been assigned to party, soviet and economic organs on the local level. They are just as responsible as we are for the provision of rayons and cities with produce.

We took this into account when we formed our system. It must fit organically into the administrative structure of each region. Of course, it would be difficult to use one recipe for all regions. Everything must be done with a view to specific, local conditions.

We believe that in rural regions where many of the farms are engaged in the cultivation of produce, it would be expedient to create rayon agrarian sales associations. Agroindustrial trade associations or wholesale-retail combines will be established in large industrial centers. As for oblasts, krays and autonomous republics, they will have agroindustrial associations which will supervise the organizations listed above, as well as shipping and packing enterprises and large canneries.

[Question] Can you illustrate this with a specific example?

[Answer] The Zhiguli Association is made up of five sovkhoses near Tol'yatti. The head enterprise is the Ovoshchevod Sovkhoz with a hothouse combine, and the general director is the manager of this farm.

[Question] What are the other elements of the association?

[Answer] There is a wholesale-retail base with produce storage facilities, an enterprise which makes sauerkraut and pickled cucumbers and tomatoes, and specialized stores, many of which have been converted for self-service. The city of Tol'yatti is made up of three rayons, or administrative divisions, and agricultural subdivisions are part of one of these, along with industrial, transport, trade and other organizations. The administrators of this rayon coordinate the work of the association. This kind of experience has also been accumulated in Novorossiysk. I feel that it deserves some mention. Unfortunately, the purpose of set objectives

is not understood everywhere. Instead of creating a single fruit and vegetable agroindustrial complex, they mechanically reassign sovkhoses from one department to another while the enterprises and organizations in our field remain under their previous jurisdiction.

[Question] Have we had any experience which testifies that it was correct to create the unified complexes?

[Answer] It was precisely experience, or practice, that suggested the need to improve structural ties and administration in fruit and vegetable farming. For example, the Konservplodoovoshch Agroindustrial Trade Association in the Checheno-Ingushskaya ASSR has been operating for more than 10 years. Here the management of fruit and vegetable production, processing and sales by a single administration has made it possible to approximately quadruple output and sales within a relatively short time. In turn, this has made it possible to can more produce and balance the entire agroindustrial complex. There are also other examples. The initiative in the establishment of this ministry came, as it were, from below. Incidentally, the need to put an end to departmental differences has been discussed several times in our press organs, including LITERATURNAYA GAZETA.

[Question] Before the fruit can be picked from the trees, saplings have to be planted. It has already been said many times that large and stable harvests cannot be expected until problems in selection and seed farming are solved. What plans have been made in this area?

[Answer] There is no need to conceal the fact that some of our strains are inferior to foreign strains and hybrids in terms of yield, resistance to diseases and pests and suitability for industrial cultivation. In addition, we must say that many of our vegetable seed farms are located in zones that cannot produce large and, what is more important, guaranteed harvests.

[Question] Pardon me for interrupting, but does this not make us wonder what the scientists were thinking about?

[Answer] I think it would be ridiculous to look for guilty parties in the past. It would be much better to set to work in earnest to correct the situation. Here, of course, we cannot get along without science. We can only dictate technical policy--that is, the planting of specific strains in specific regions--after we have developed selection, seed production and agricultural standards. After this, we can dictate policy even to the owner of a private plot, who will also be benefited by planting seeds guaranteeing a maximum harvest. I am certain that he will be grateful for this.

[Question] Several reports in the press have said that up to 25 percent of the potatoes, 20 percent of the beets and 18 percent of the fruit spoil just during winter storage. Obviously, this involves many millions of tons, which turn into mould. According to the calculations of specialists, a million tons of potatoes represent the annual consumption norm for 6-8 million people. The topic of harvest preservation is a traditional one for LITERATURNAYA GAZETA. We have written a great deal about this. Official articles by the heads of ministries and departments and letters from readers have been printed. What is being done to minimize losses?

[Answer] The party has set us a specific task, which was precisely defined in L. I. Brezhnev's statement that "the work must be organized in such a way that we do not lose a single kilogram of grain, fruit or vegetables." Above all, we are now trying to reduce the route traveled by the harvest from the field to the counter. Unfortunately, various departments are responsible for the preservation of the harvest in different areas and during different stages of this journey. We must know the precise route and adhere to it strictly. When we know it, we can determine, without any errors, the type and quantity of transport and packing equipment we will need in each particular area.

[Question] Will you produce your own packing materials now?

[Answer] Absolutely. We are already producing them, but this also involves colossal work. We must take the geography of plants, so to speak, into account. This is extremely important: We must know where to build and what to build. We will increase the output of polymer and corrugated cardboard packing materials.

[Question] What is the best way to distribute the total harvest?

[Answer] It would probably be best to take potatoes as an example. It is our second form of bread. We know that approximately 60 percent will have a good commercial appearance, and it would be best to sell this 60 percent.

[Question] What about the remaining 40 percent?

[Answer] This is a question of optimal product differentiation. There can be no choice potatoes because one potato is much like another. The substandard 40 percent, however, must be used efficiently. Most of it should be processed and the rest can be used to feed livestock.

[Question] That is logical. Sometimes we forget that in addition to the huge losses we have already discussed, there is also the waste the housewife throws into the garbage. If I have understood you correctly, special sorting, cleaning, packing and other machines will be needed for so-called waste-free production. Are there enough of these machines?

[Answer] Unfortunately, they are scarce. As yet, we cannot get along without manual labor. But we cannot wait idly until industry masters the series production of all the machines and equipment we need.

[Question] Are you counting, as LITERATURNAYA GAZETA once reported, on the urbanites who arrive at vegetable storage bases in a crowd to sort potatoes or cucumbers?

[Answer] We are counting on the maximum use of existing Soviet machines for the cleaning of potatoes and feed tubers, on transporters for sorting and on the necessary, and I would even say essential, assistance of our industrial centers, which must not be afraid to take the initiative in manufacturing the necessary equipment and supplying the fruit and vegetable bases in their regions with this equipment. After all, many tons are lost throughout the country, and not in one particular place. Most of the effort to reduce losses must be made on the local level.

[Question] Letters from readers often contain interesting and businesslike suggestions. I recall that one reader proposed changes in the trade in perishable goods to make it more dynamic. For example, the private farmer will not bring any more to the market than he can sell before nightfall. But in state stores we can see mountains of products that are already spoiling while fresh ones are being brought in. Why, the author of this letter asks, are the spoiling products not taken away for processing so that the stores can sell only fresh products.

[Answer] No one could argue with this opinion. In some places we are already doing what the author of this letter proposed. For example, in Odessa and Bendery this is being done. As fresh goods are brought in, the remaining old goods are taken away to be processed or fed to livestock.

[Question] Yerevan has such a large number of cooperative stores that we wonder where so many could have come from. After all, the structure of cooperative trade is quite simple. The private farmer's surplus products are purchased. This is, as we know, a necessary and useful practice. What happens, therefore, is that the private farmer sometimes has this surplus on his subsidiary plot in a good year. Why should he go all the way to the market? He has commission stores that buy the goods at wholesale prices and issue him the proper documents for them. But something odd then happens. Even in years of poor harvests when the state stores are empty, the commission stores are completely full. And their prices are higher than the prices in the market all year round. The service was established, however, to bring down the retail price. No one knows where all of this surplus comes from and who sets the prices in these stores. I have encountered this in the Trans-Caucasus, in Central Asia, in the North Caucasus, in the Crimea and in many other places.

[Answer] We must, for our part, work with Tsentsosoyuz on the precise organization of all our services so that we can simply close off all avenues for speculation and greed. Everything must be monitored and controlled. This includes the surplus of which you spoke. Now that there are more subsidiary plots, the question of purchases and procurements has become a cardinal issue. This means that the work and the supervision in this area must be properly organized.

[Question] When the food program is being carried out, it will obviously be necessary to first ensure that the level of consumption meets the requirements of a balanced diet. So-called efficient consumer budgets have been drawn up. It is no secret that the present output of vegetables, cucurbits, fruit and berries is still below the norm. What will the ministry do to increase the so-called gross output? Will you, for example, increase the size of sown areas?

[Answer] We will open new farms. But we are quite aware that our party's general line in agriculture emphasizes intensification. We have reserves. For example, on the Sad-Gigant Sovkhoz in Krasnodarskiy Kray when old orchards on an area of 1,200 hectares were replaced with new and intensive ones, with highly valuable strains, the average yield was 185 quintals per hectare. As a result of a transfer to industrial fruit and vegetable farming and the use of mechanization in harvesting operations, large and stable harvests have been obtained on the Agronom Sovkhoz in Lipetskaya Oblast, the Kibray Sovkhoz in the Uzbek SSR, the Pamyat' Il'icha Interkolkhoz Garden in the Moldavian SSR and the Lebyazh'ya Polyana Sovkhoz in

Volgogradskaya Oblast. At the same time, despite the fact that the technology of intensive gardening has been worked out for all zones of our country and experience has been accumulated in the acquisition of stable harvests on this basis, some gardening sovkhozes in Dagestan and Belgorodskaya, Kirovogradskaya, Ternopol'skaya, Ferganskaya and other oblasts gather an average of 18 quintals per hectare in good weather.

[Question] In other words, only a fraction of the Sad-Gigant harvest. But what are the average gardening indicators for the nation?

[Answer] From 20 to 40 quintals. Of course, these figures are insignificant in comparison to the record harvest, but if all presently lagging farms make an earnest effort to reconstruct their orchards, replace old trees and rise to the union average, we will obtain, according to expert estimates, around 800,000 additional tons of fruit and berries. Equally significant reserves exist in vegetable farming.

[Question] The average yield per hectare in the Armenian SSR's Yekhegnadzorskiy Rayon is less than 15 quintals of grapes. Grape growers in the rayon have made every effort to attain average republic indicators--around 70 quintals. In the same rayon, however, on the same land, the private farmer obtains 400 or more quintals per hectare. Would it not be more correct to aim for the record? After all, the land really is exactly the same.

[Answer] In theory, you are right. That is say, ideally. If a private plot is around one-twentieth of a hectare, it can be expected to produce around 20 quintals. In the abstract, this works out to 400 quintals per hectare. I repeat, in the abstract, and not in reality. The owner of a private plot literally tends each vine, gives it enough water and fertilizer, sprinkles it and wraps each cluster in paper. This is virtually impossible on an area of thousands or millions of hectares. For us, mechanization, profitability and a larger output per unit of labor are the main considerations. Therefore, there is no basis for comparison. I do agree, however, in one respect. If the land can produce, for instance, these 400 quintals of grapes, this means that we must remember that there are reserves, there is potential, there is a goal for which we must constantly strive by improving production. Of course, we must not lose our sense of proportion.

[Question] The editors once sent me on a journey from the peach orchards in Armenia's Noyemberyanskiy Rayon to the Urals. I accompanied the peaches, which were of superior quality in the orchards. The lion's share spoiled en route. This was reported in LITERATURNAYA GAZETA. Obviously, the peaches are not the main issue here. They are simply an example. This is a matter of principle, and in principle, as experience has shown us, it is difficult and almost impossible to avoid losses. The distances are too great.

[Answer] It is not convenient to carry perishables over such colossal distances by rail. Here, naturally, we must rely on the assistance of the Ministry of Civil Aviation, which has modern liners. Of course, the Urals, Siberia, the Far East and the Far North will always constitute a matter of special concern to us. After all, the people there need fresh produce and vitamins more than anyone else.

[Question] They need vitamins, and not waste. I worked and lived on the Kamchatka Peninsula for 10 years and I saw tons of former vitamins, which had been brought in by sea, thrown on the dump heap. It is a pity, I feel, that we often remember about vitamins only during the "peak period," when vegetables and fruit are ripe. It seems to us that we should eat enough of them then to make up for lost time. This leads to haste and agitation. But it is precisely during the "peak period" that the organism needs vitamins the least. Summer itself brings us vitamins, along with greenery and the sun. Winter and, in particular, early spring are a different matter. It is then that the scarcity of products affects us. Would it not be better to send only enough fresh produce over long distances during the "peak period" as people can actually use, so that losses can be avoided, and send the rest year-round in canned form? I read somewhere that the craving for extremely exotic foods (for a northerner this could be fresh strawberries) is more psychological than physiological in origin.

[Answer] Nevertheless, a person, regardless of where he may be located, must be supplied with everything possible. He must not feel deprived. It is true, however, that industrial processing should be made more efficient. It yields many benefits. In the first place, canned goods can be shipped year-round and over distances of any length. In the second place, canned vitamins are generally prepared from raw material with the necessary maturity and taste characteristics. It is possible to create new products with a view to the preferences of various population groups. According to specialists, canned vegetables and fruit can be just as nutritious as their unprocessed "relatives," the quality of which can fluctuate quite widely by the time they appear on store counters. In the current 5 years we expect to increase the output of canned fruit and vegetables to 11 billion conventional cans. It is significant that our enterprises already have the capacity to produce 10 billion, but this potential is not being used in full. The situation can be corrected through the balanced and coordinated development of raw material zones and processing enterprise capacities. This has been made possible by the establishment of the unified agroindustrial complex.

[Question] Regardless of the level of perfection attained in the procurement, storage and shipment of fresh produce, it is probably highly unlikely that the problem can be solved, particularly in winter, without the development of hothouse farming. After all, red tomatoes and green cucumbers on our winter table are more than just vitamins. They also affect our emotions and our mood.

[Answer] In the last 10 years the total hothouse area in the country quadrupled. We must remember that existing capacities are not being utilized in full everywhere. It would seem that conditions are virtually identical in all hothouses, but the yield is 10 kilograms per square meter in some places and 30 kilograms in others. The average national indicator is 20 kilograms. In the current 5 years we will build new hothouses with a total area of 1,000 hectares. Incidentally, they will also be built in Siberia and the Far East. But without intensification, our work cannot be successful. Unfortunately, the technical level creates problems for us.

[Question] Procurement is regarded as one of the most important links. It is in vegetable storage facilities, especially in the winter, that the highest percentage of spoilage is encountered. What will the ministry do about this?

[Answer] We plan to locate most of these facilities in the zones where the main items are produced. This will free many workers.

[Question] What will they be doing after the harvest?

[Answer] During the winter they will work on the concluding stages of production according to plan in a peaceful atmosphere. The best products will be sent to stores to be sold. Those of poorer quality will be sent for processing. This preliminary sorting on the local level will preclude the shipment of earth, waste and substandard products. Less transport vehicles and packing materials will be required. We already have considerable experience in this and we must vigorously disseminate it. The preservation of the harvest is not merely a matter of economics. We are also performing a moral duty to rural workers, to those who, despite the year's extremely poor weather, have done everything within their power to raise and gather the harvest and deliver it from the field to the counter. The efficient and skillful use of the potential of the agroindustrial complex must be the deciding factor in our work.

8588

CSO: 1800/27

NATIONAL

RELIGIOUS GROUPS ACCUSED OF INTERFERING IN CULTURAL EDUCATION

Moscow SOVETSKAYA KUL'TURA in Russian 9 Oct 81 pp 2-3

[Article by O. Antonova, candidate of philosophical sciences, lecturer at the State Musical Pedagogical Institute imeni Gnesinykh: "Art and Religion"]

[Text] I recently had occasion to deliver a lecture on the historical destinies of art and religion at one of the scientific research institutes. It was difficult to imagine that for people of the strictly rational turn of mind formed by the logics of mathematical concepts the problem of religious art would turn out to be so lively and interesting; that among these people were those "seekers after values," if not in religion in general, then in any event in some of its manifestations. "Do we really have to refute religion so completely?" said one young scientist. "Just go into a church and listen to the "Vespers" of S. Rakhmaninov. Within the walls of an ancient temple with the bright flickering of the candles and the ikons in their gilded settings, just hear the way it sounds! It really is splendid!" In the words of the speaker--a convinced atheist, as he himself said--there was a real admiration for the church rituals....

These kinds of statements are not a rare thing. They indicate not only the interest of today's thinking man in the artistic culture of the past, but also the fact that the understanding of the social sources and essence of this culture is not always correct and that the role of the church and religion in its history is frequently exaggerated.

The problem of the links between art and religion and their complex, contradictory relationships has today become a veritable thicket in the struggle of ideas. To a large extent this has been caused by the growing role of art in the spiritual life of society. As L.I. Brezhnev said at the 26th CPSU Congress: "The Soviet person has become something else. His knowledge has been enriched, his erudition has grown, his spiritual requirements have increased considerably." At the same time, the congress emphasized that in this field we still have many problems to solve. One of them is that our requirements and our tastes are frequently greater than what is provided by the information media and the cultural establishments. On the other hand, the growing education and rising cultural level in some people are not always accompanied by the formation within them of high ideological-moral qualities or the appropriate value principles: sometimes education is combined with a petty-minded world outlook. This kind of one-sidedness in the development of the personality can create the psychological soil for the cultivation and acceptance

of views alien to our society, including religious views. The modern church takes note of this and draws its own conclusions. By struggling to retain its influence over the masses, again and again it advances the idea of religion's "creative" and "decisive" influence on the enrichment of artistic culture. And by doing this it sometimes succeeds in holding back the law-governed process of extinguishing religion in our country and even extends the frontiers of its influence, spreading even to the educated strata of the population--the artistic and technical intelligentsia.

The process of modernizing public worship taking place intensively within churches of various denominations serves the same end. Thus, the Russian Orthodox Church, adapting itself to the tastes of our contemporaries, appeals to certain forms of choric endeavor in art that not so long ago were categorically forbidden as being inconsonant with the "austerity of public christian worship." On the other hand, it makes extensive use of the aesthetic ensembles that are so typical of our times, especially in the field of choric art.

The Baptist leaders are also extremely active in this regard. Both within their process of worship, and outside it, they are trying to develop a certain type of music-making, thanks to which the Baptist Church has become, as it were, a "singing" church. By using the emotional force of music and its ability to create appropriate psychological moods, the Baptist zealots sometimes skillfully direct the feelings of the believers into the course of religious ideas and attitudes. This is stated unequivocally in one of their publications--the "Evangelical Christian Baptists in the USSR.": "Like preaching, singing should retain within itself an exhortation, that is, precepts and lessons."

These same processes, strengthened especially since the second Vatican Council, are also taking place in the Catholic Church. Renouncing the traditional Latin, the post-council church is making extensive use of the vernacular in its liturgy, which strengthens the significance of its preaching. The leitmotif in the liturgical innovations has been the idea of transforming the cult into a real means of ideological propaganda. The church's approach is thus being moved into the missionary field of activity and into a spiritual ministry. Even that intimate side of worship, prayer, is now subordinate to the study of the catechism, while the "dialogue with God" has been replaced by a dialogue with the priesthood.

Since the Catholic Church in the USSR must take into consideration the fact that its ideology contradicts the objective law-governed patterns in the development of socialist society, in both the social and spiritual fields, it is trying to find ways of bringing communist and christian ideals "closer together." This is undoubtedly confusing the believers and hampering any correct understanding of the disturbing problems of the present.

By speculating on the links that were formed historically between the religious cult and national customs and the feelings of the people, both the Orthodox Church and the Catholic Church (and Islam no less) are attempting to reinforce religious-nationalist prejudices. In this they make free use of popular traditions, including in the field of art culture; they are trying to push their own interpretation on the broadest range of problems: the universe, social consciousness, ethics, humanism, the idea of existence and so forth.

This is precisely why scientific-atheistic education presupposes criticism not of the individual elements of religion, but the entirety of its component parts, and neutralization of its influence not only on the mind of the person in the religious trance but on his feelings and will.

Art can and should be of considerable help in resolving this problem. V.I. Lenin's idea that in a socialist society religion should be replaced by the theater applies to all kinds of artistic creativity. Of course, by organically combining within itself a model cognition of life and the ethical-aesthetic ideal of the age, true art possesses enormous power in influencing the spiritual world and people's feelings. Thanks to these qualities, it is of inestimable significance in educational work, including atheistic work.

In this connection, the work experience of a faculty of the people's university of culture--"The Cultural Heritage and Atheism Today"--which was opened in the fall of 1980 in Kaluzhskaya Oblast, is of interest. Maloyaroslavets is a typical middle area ancient Russian city. The most varied traces of historical stratifications can be seen in its outward appearance. On the one hand, it retains a remarkably rich collection of exhibits in its museum showing the feats of valor by heroes of the patriotic war of 1812, heroes of the October Revolution, the Civil War and the first five-year plans. There is a splendid memorial, raised to the memory of citizens of the town who gave their lives on the field of combat against fascism in 1941-1945. On the other hand, the church that dominates the very center of the town cultivates the orthodox traditions. Here too, with the full agreement of the orthodox clergy, the Baptists have developed their own activity. Together they are trying to create the corresponding religious-christian ideological climate.

And what can the town set against the activity of the religious organizations? One movie theater and a club that can cater to about 400 people... Moreover, the work plans for these establishments are just formal and do not meet the level of today's requirements. As far as propagandist-atheists are concerned, their ranks are thin and training (with few exceptions) leaves much to be desired.

It was in this situation that the faculty "The Cultural Heritage and Atheism Today," created on the initiative of the RSFSR Ministry of Culture, the council of the people's universities of culture, the cultural administration of the Kaluga oblispokom, and the culture section of the Maloyaroslavets rayispolkom, began to function. All the practical aspects of the business--compilation of plans, determination of their content, fulfillment--were assumed by the members of the council of atheists under the CPSU Kiyevskiy raykom in Moscow and the teachers and students of the State Musical Pedagogical Institute imeni Gnesinykh.

The faculty was reckoned for 3 years. Its aim was atheistic education through art. The first year was devoted to the theme "Atheism and Musical Art." This choice was not fortuitous. It is precisely in the field of music that the speculation of the church on the aesthetic feelings of the believers is most subtle and refined. At the same time it is precisely here that it encounters the most profound and virtually irresolvable contradictions. This is why we regarded the theme of the first year's teaching as a base providing the key to solving the problem as a whole. During the next 2 years we shall solve it using material on pictorial art and architecture and literature and the theater.

The initial methodological principle used in setting up the entire course was the tenet of historical materialism that art lives and develops in inseparable contact with the cultural-historical complex, in which for many centuries religion was also included. At the same time, in terms of their place and their role in this complex, religion and art are not of the same order. By growing in a law-governed pattern out of the practical activity of a society, culture (including art) is an essential element in a social system since it provides for the society information without which it could not direct its own function and development. But religion, as F. Engels remarked, arose historically as a fantastical and false reflection in the heads of people of the external forces that prevailed over them in their everyday lives; as a reflection in which earthly forces assume the form of unearthly forces. Accordingly, although, like culture, it also plays the role of an information-communication system by apparently fulfilling the same social functions, its activity is realized in a perverted form. Ignoring this circumstance leads to distorted and sometimes reactionary conclusions about the place of religion and art in the history of social progress.

Their different position in the sociohistorical process engenders contradictions between the ecclesiastical-dogmatic definition of the tasks of art and the function of artistic culture as a social phenomenon. Taking this into account, in lectures by the faculty, consistently, throughout the course, not only was the pragmatism of the church unmasked, but the democratic and anticlerical trends that have been present through many centuries in the history of art were also revealed. In the end, at each historical stage, by acquiring new, although also frequently complex and contradictory features, these tendencies promoted both the establishment and development of realism in art and the emergence and intensification of crisis processes in liturgical practice.

"Soviet musical art and the problem of heritage" has become one of the faculty's basic themes. The attention of the audience is drawn to the fact that the amazing scope and great variety of the musical tapestry woven by Russian composers of the 16th and 17th centuries are recalled extensively in a number of obvious musical references in the creativity of modern composers. On the other hand, we are tracing a line that runs from that group of Russian composers who strove to express primarily the feelings of all peoples and all humankind in their very broadest social sense (Skryabin, Rubinshteyn). The "Concert in Memory of A.A. Yurlov" for mixed choir without accompaniment, created by G. Sviridov, had much in common with precisely this tendency.

The illustrative program of lectures prepared in this way is making it possible to see the amazing originality of national development and the continuity in Russian and Soviet music. At the same time it affirms the great force inherent in the masterpieces of art in the past, a force that was born not of the power of the church but, on the contrary, by the manifestation in the religious cult of a worldly, human creative sentence.

This approach to the organization of the course has fully justified itself. The confirmation of that were the statements made at the concluding conference. Course member S. Pukhov said: "Art possesses an enormous strength to influence, while the church uses this force to atrophy the reason by interfering with the rational

approach to life." Those who spoke said that ancient Russian art--painting, music and architecture--were undoubtedly things of beauty in their artistic perfection, but they were not born of a "divine" sentience but through the talent and labor of their creators.

We really should say a word about the difficulties encountered by the faculty organizers. And there were quite a few. Let us start by saying that either because of some kind of carelessness or some kind of unkind intentions, the sessions were under constant threat of being frustrated. Sometimes the announcement was not made in time, sometimes there was confusion about the dates, sometimes the piano would suddenly be broken right before the meeting even though one hour earlier it had been in perfect working order; and so forth. It is not difficult to guess who the guilty ones were in these and similar "accidents" if some by no means accidental facts are taken into account. For example, there was intimidation of those participating in the performances. It was openly suggested to them that "they take their atheistic work somewhere else." And this happened much more than just once. It also used to happen that before the start of a lecture a certain citizen stood at the entrance of the hall with the "frightening" warning of "Go on then, go on. But you will repent with tears later." Well, anyway, we could see in these kinds of "attacks" the effectiveness of our work. The more so since they did not succeed in preventing it: the audience, always there, always interested, came just the same.

Many years of practical work show that in atheism, as in any other educational work, a differentiated approach is required. It turned out that the very same problem--"atheism and the cultural heritage" for example--is perceived differently by different audiences. Consequently, both the choice of material and the method of presenting it should vary. Experience has shown that even within the framework of small cycles this problem is of greater interest the greater the education and erudition of the audience. Moreover, the question of the artistic heritage from the past becomes for them a main bridgehead in the struggle against religion. This kind of audience would scarcely be attracted by direct criticism of religion in the traditional, ordinary forms.

The task in lecture cycles on this problem is to help people understand the social and aesthetic quiddity of ancient Russian art traditions, and also to show a specific aspect of the tragedy of an art enmeshed in the chains of ecclesiastical dogmatism and to unmask the illegality of claims made by the servants of the church to an exclusive role in the history of a national culture.

Resolution of this task depends mainly on how the cultural monuments of the past are "read" both by contemporary interpreters in the field of the performing arts, particularly music, and by those working in the museums. It is a cause for regret, for example, that when museums include ikons and church plate in their exhibits they usually "show" them merely as "relics of culture and customs," and with admirable fortitude "refrain" from any atheistic attempt to understand the cultural objects. The tactic of "silence" is also typical of many memorials and literary museums. It frequently happens that excursion guides in art museums give scrupulously detailed art analyses of the works of religious art down to the very finest nuances while "forgetting" about their world-outlook aspect. However, it is their direct duty to explain the problems of the relationships between religion and art, religion

and morals, religion and culture; and to point out the historical significance of the fundamental change in people's consciousness that led to the triumph of the atheistic world outlook.

In music also, the nature of the restoration of musical culture and its memorials has a direct bearing on world-outlook attitudes. For example, the interpretation by some choirs of the works of the 16th century is extremely debatable. Sometimes in their performance priority is given to the elements of cult affiliation--their static nature, contemplative nature, and the strict introversion of the canonical formulas. Readings of texts are done in the same way--they merely reinforce the emotionally religious implications of these works.

Perhaps such an approach does have some cognitive value, but in a concert performance it is hardly justified. And primarily because the trend and perception of the relics of musical art on the concert podium and in a church are not the same. In the former case the art loses its specific cult character. It is of interest not because of its religious ideas but primarily as a work of art, and in this connection the method of presentation to the audience should be of an appropriate artistic nature and not some imitation of a religious act. Disregard of this requirement leads to a situation in which the living soul in the works of the great masters of the past remains buried in the canonical formulas.

The problem of revealing to the contemporary listener the musical art of the past as done by the Moscow Chamber Choir led by V.N. Minin is resolved in quite another key. When reviving the relics of ancient music the choric collective does not set itself the aim of "restoring" museum rarities and titillating the imagination of the standard-bearers of the "patriarchal days of old," with their exoticism and religious "enlightenment." The task here is quite different. First, it is cognitive. The choir's repertoire includes the kind of scores that help in revealing and understanding a range of ideas and feelings that moved people in the past. During the performances of these works the accent is laid on problems of the general significance and representative degrees of the historical development. This engenders a feeling of pride on one's motherland. The second task that the choric collective sets itself is to show the continuity of Russian musical culture. The structures of the programmes themselves precisely delineate the line of artistic development linking the different generations of artists.

The concert programs of the Moscow Chamber Choir have an artistic-educational value not only in and of themselves, but also as fine material for atheistic practical work. They can become the basis for the logical structure of lectures on the theme of "music and religion."

The correct approach to the preservation and popularization of the artistic monuments of the past is of great significance in raising the level of mass world outlook and general art training, and in instilling the feelings of patriotism and recognition of participation in the history of one's own motherland. This work should proceed in the channel of the life-giving process that L.I. Brezhnev spoke of, in the channel of "...the further access of the multimillion-strong masses to the values of culture."

NATIONAL

THEATER FAILS TO REFLECT CONTEMPORARY SOCIETY

Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 17 Oct 81 p 1

[Unsigned article: "The High Mission of the Theater"]

[Text] In the theaters, a new season is starting. Looking over repertory playbills, the viewers search excitedly for the next premieres. They are anticipating joyous meetings with the art of producers and actors, playwrights, composers, artists and good friends, who have fallen in love with earlier theater works and who have taken the first steps on its stages. And it is perfectly natural for each collective to wish to have a perfect start and not to short change the expectations of viewers but to make them happy with productions that are clear as to form and compelling as to content.

The strength of the theater born of October lies in the desire to interpret the movement of life and its profound conflicts, to bring to judgment by the public of current problems of people's lives and to imprint in all its complexity and richness the spiritual world of man living in the society of developed socialism.

The ideological aspirations of the notable figures of our multinational artistic culture and the nature of their public position are well expressed by the words uttered by Comrade L.I. Brezhnev from the tribune of the 26th CPSU Congress: "To live with the interests of the people, to share with them joy and sorrow, to affirm the verity of life, our humanistic ideals and to be an active participant in the building of communism--this constitutes the true national character, the true party nature of art."

It is time to put before the Soviet theater increasingly complex tasks. In solving them, it is important to preserve and increase that which is valuable and fruitful, which had become the heritage of stage art in the preceding period. In particular, a good service should and must be contributed by experience of work on the historical and revolutionary theme, on productions dealing with the feat of the Soviet people in the Great Patriotic War and on the most important milestones in the building of socialism in our country; this was accumulated in the course of the All-Union Review of Plays and Concert Programs dealing with the party congress. During this time there were staged more than 600 performances of works of Soviet authors, many of which were noted by viewers.

What has been said by no means signifies that the theater has not lately provided us with serious grounds for dissatisfaction. Looking back at the panorama of last season, you see a procession of plays where petty passions abound, life-situation mix-ups are pictured in which you do not sense the feeling of the time and its essential conflicts. The inevitable result of creative inertia and lack of concern for a fully viable repertory is loss of live contact between stage and hall.

Theatrical successes are directly connected with the state of affairs in dramaturgy. Recently, the state of this genre was the subject of widespread discussion in the press, at congresses of creative unions and at theatrical conferences. Concern was voiced that few plays were being written which set out on a broad scale current problems of social development and artistically showed full-blooded examples of contemporaries, people with an active position in life. There is a weak flow of fresh forces into dramaturgy, and no special insistence is shown in bringing to the stage works approved at playwright seminars or singled out at competitions. Theaters, cultural organs and creative unions should work more specifically and display interest in each author that displays a talent in the sphere of dramaturgy. It is also important for the better plays to be publicized in literary journals and be objectively assessed in a timely manner by critics.

It can be said with confidence that the character of this year's season will be decisively determined by the 60th jubilee of the formation of the USSR which we shall celebrate toward the end of next year. This event provides a good reason for more active work on new plays and productions depicting the features of the Soviet way of life and showing the indestructible friendship and fraternity of the peoples of our country and the deep internationalism and patriotism of the builders of communism. In the course of preparing for the jubilee, we should make fuller use of opportunities for strengthening creative ties, mutually enriching theatrical cultures of union and autonomous republics. Systematic handling of works of national dramaturgy and the participation of producers, actors and script writers from different republics in joint productions—these and other forms of cooperation enrich the ideological thematic and style palette of the theater.

One of the fine traditions of the Soviet theater is active participation in the ideological, moral and esthetic education of the rising generation. Today productions are to be found not only on the stages of children's but also of most "adult" theaters that are addressed to the young, and there are held weeks of "The Theater for Children and Young People." Deserving of support is an initiative of Lenin-graders—"theater lessons" for the students of the city's vocational and technical schools at which young workers discuss plays they have seen and familiarize themselves with the creative laboratory of masters of the stage. It is essential that each collective consider work with young viewers as a matter of primary importance.

In establishing their repertoires, theaters must not forget about another important tradition of Soviet art—its atheistic direction. It is no secret that religion still exercises dominance over the minds of a portion of our people, including young people. Unfortunately, plays of atheistic bent are extremely rare on the contemporary stage which show to what level of spiritual impoverishment the power of religious beliefs leads the individual as the Church adapts itself to new historical conditions. And we must seriously concern ourselves with how to fill this gap.

Life calls for the further improvement of the theater, the exertion of more influence on this sphere of art on the part of union and republic ministries of culture, creative unions and local party and soviet organs. Everything possible must be done so that the theater's daily dialog with its multithousand audience becomes more substantive, helps people better know themselves and the surrounding world and reveals their thirst for serving the ideals of communism and the interests of Soviet society. It is this that the Appeals of the CPSU Central Committee have for their aim:

"Workers of literature and art, cultural workers! Create works that are worthy of our great Motherland!

"Carry high the banner of ideology, the party and national character of Soviet art!"

7697

CSO: 1800/46

NATIONAL

EXISTENCE OF MEMOIRS BY SHOSTAKOVICH DENIED

Moscow KNIZHNOYE OBOZRENIYE in Russian No 39, Sep 81 p 11

[Interview with S.M. Khentova, on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the birth of D.D. Shostakovich; date and place not specified]

[Excerpts] The literature on D.D. Shostakovich is enormous: heavy theoretical work, monographs, and popular pamphlets. Six years ago the "Sovetskiy Kompozitor" Publishing House began to issue a four-volume documentary-historical study of the life and work of Shostakovich written by the Leningrad musicologist Sof'ya Mikhaylovna Khentova. Three books--the two-volume "Shostakovich's Young Years" and the book "D.D. Shostakovich During the Great Patriotic War" have been published, and the publication of the concluding volume--"Shostakovich. Three Decades: 1945-1975" has been set for the 75th anniversary of the great composer's birth. Our correspondent has asked questions of S.M. Khentova regarding these publications and the literature about D.D. Shostakovich.

[Question] Which probably was dominated by theoretical and analytical works?

[Answer] And very valuable ones. Remarkable works by A. Dolzhanskiy and L. Mazel' and the first concise monograph by I. Martynov. Later V. Bobrovskiy, M. Sabinin, V. Vasin-Gressman, V. Zaderatskiy, L. Danilevich, and A. Bogdanov published basic works about the composer's genres and several large and interesting collections were published--a great deal has been said about the language and craft of Shostakovich. But even when he was alive, in a collection of articles marking his 60th birthday, prominent musicians raised the question of the necessity for a many-sided and documentary study. D. Kabalevskiy wrote: "How much I would like to see a book written about Shostakovich...in which Shostakovich's creative personality would appear before the reader in its full stature, and in which no analytical musical studies would block out the spiritual world of the composer which was born of the very difficult 20th century." Ye. Mravinskiy has called attention to the following fact: "Our descendants will envy us for having lived at the same time as the creator of the 8th Symphony and for having been able to meet and talk with him. They will try to collect as much information as possible about his life and

work. And they will probably complain about us for not having known how to fix and preserve for the future many trifles which were characteristic of him, and how to see the inimitable and, therefore, especially precious in the everyday event...."

Making use of my experience as a musicologist, and after having studied the classical works of documentary history by Yu. Tynyanov, Ye. Tarle, and other outstanding historian-biographers, at the approaches to my four-volume work I published essays and documentary studies about Shostakovich in my books "Musicians About Their Art" and "On Music and the Musicians of Our Day," and articles in periodicals in the USSR, Polish People's Republic, and the GDR; parallel to this, as "laboratory" work which helped to interpret and summarize the material from different angles, my "Stories About Shostakovich" and regional study "Shostakovich in Petrograd-Leningrad" which went through two editions were published.

These preparations helped in doing the writing of the four-volume history of the life and work of Shostakovich.

[Question] What was D.D. Shostakovich's attitude toward this work?

[Answer] The two-volume study had been written, and the first volume had been published during the life of Dmitriy Dmitriyevich, with his help and approval, which were expressed not only in letters addressed to me, but also in a written address by Shostakovich to the Leningrad branch of the "Sovetskiy Kompozitor" Publishing House containing permission to publish.

[Question] What was the nature of Shostakovich's help with your work?

[Answer] He wrote letters to archives permitting me to study, use, and copy all archival materials connected with his life and work; and in repeated conversations which took place in the Repino House of Composers near Leningrad, where the two-volume study was created, he provided explanations for questions which arose; one of the richest conversations was recorded on a tape recorder. I am keeping Shostakovich's letters as a most precious property. The manuscripts of my books and of a number of articles were looked at by him before publication.

[Question] Besides conversations with Shostakovich, what other sources were used?

[Answer] The richness of previously unknown sources which are being put into circulation is generally regarded in the science of history as the most important factor which determines the novelty and value of a study. My four-volume study is built primarily on such sources. I managed to discover and publish for the first time around 200 pieces of material--from documents and certificates relating to the connection between Shostakovich's ancestors and the family of I.N. Ul'yanov--the father of V.I. Lenin, --and with N.G. Chernyshevskiy, about a revolutionary of the 1860's Boleslav Shostakovich--the composer's grandfather,--about his father D.B. Shostakovich--and associate of D.I. Mendeleyev, --two very precious handwritten manuscripts by Shostakovich from the 1920's-1940's and stenograms of his extensive speeches and reports.... New materials about Shostakovich were discovered in the Institute of the History of the Party at the Moscow City Committee and Moscow Committee CPSU; and materials were introduced for the first time from

the personal archives of his sisters Mariya and Zoya and other relatives and friends, as well as from around 300 of Shostakovich's letters. I had to engage not only in searching for material and doing research, but also, if I may say so, in organizing the materials so that the traces of the recent past would not be lost. Reminiscences by colleagues and friends of the composer were written especially for the four-volume study; and 59 tape recordings of conversations with members of Shostakovich's family and with composers and musicians were enlisted for the first time, as documentary evidence, in a musicallogical study. A large number of primary scores--rough drafts and sketches--were covered....

[Question] You as a student of the life and work of Shostakovich who is acquainted with his personal archive should know whether he wrote memoirs, and whether any autobiographical notes have been left to us?

[Answer] Shostakovich did not write memoirs--I think that this was even distasteful to his modest and restrained nature. In the first volume it was possible to publish for the first time a small hand-written description of his life dated 1926, and several autobiographical texts written in different years have been preserved.

2959

CSO: 1800/40

REGIONAL

FIRST DEPUTY JUSTICE MINISTER ON COMRADE COURTS

Tallinn RAHVA HAAL in Estonian 23 Aug 81 p 4

[Article by Jaak Kirikal, chairman of the Republic Council on Comrade Courts, first deputy justice minister of the Estonian SSR: "Comrade Courts in the Place of Residence"]

[Text] The Party holds that the participation of the population and the development of its activity in the protection of a lawful society are most important. Voluntary citizen militia and local comrade courts are social organizations whose main tasks is contributing to the maintenance of a lawful state.

The comrade courts offer great opportunities for educating workers in the spirit of a communist attitude to work and to meeting the rules of behavior, in developing a respect for the person and honor of a Soviet citizen. According to regulations, these courts have been established in places of employment, in residences joined to housing authorities and in rural communities and townships. The comrade courts consist of persons who have earned the trust of their colleagues and of the entire population by their impartiality and moral attributes and by their self-discipline and intolerance of any breach of law. Members of comrade courts in residences include mostly social activists, workers of housing authorities and pensioners. Many persons with legal training--legal consultants and lawyers--have also been elected.

The comrade court of the Lasnamae housing authority in Tallinn was vigorous from the beginning, although this was a new housing area where the implementation of social organizations could have been expected to be more difficult than elsewhere. L. Chkalova, a pensioner with experience in legal work, was elected president of the court. The housing authority furnished the comrade court with rooms and other necessities.

Results were not long in coming. The comrade court meets weekly at a certain time; sessions proceed efficiently with due attention to all requirements of rehabilitation; documentation is in conformance with regulations. An atmosphere condemning anti-social acts surrounds the transgressor.

A characteristic feature of communism-building at the present time is that governmental and social agencies involved in protecting the law are continually perfecting the forms and methods of their work, depending on the tasks facing

Soviet society. Lately, order-maintenance stations that aid government and social agencies in maintaining law in residential areas have won great praise. Of course, the leading role is played by the militia and the peoples militia since they are primarily responsible for preventing breaches of the law and for prosecuting lawbreakers.

The Leninist principle of socialist legality includes the consistency of punishment. In many instances where a felony has not been committed, a discussion of the transgression by a comrade court and measures of social influence have a greater rehabilitative value than administrative punishment. Therefore one must approve of those peoples militia who direct files on breaches of public order or rules of socialist communality committed in houses, apartments, or within families to the local comrade court.

Such cooperation is well developed in the order-maintenance stations of Harju Rayon and the town of Narva. Comrade courts are attached to all order-maintenance stations of Harju Rayon. Almost a third of all cases discussed by the rayon's residential comrade courts involved cases forwarded by peoples militia.

In Narva the order-maintenance stations are served by comrade courts of the housing authority. It is primarily due to the stations' exemplary cooperation that the local comrade courts have continually discussed cases of unworthy behavior in the locality and within the family. The courts have also often tried questions on parental responsibility. The questions of removing parental rights from parents who shirk their responsibilities for educating children or who abuse their parental privileges by treating their children cruelly or by exerting a negative influence on them by amoral and antisocial behavior have been forwarded to welfare organizations.

The comrade courts of Tartu and Viljandi housing administrations have done a great job in resolving quarrels and disputes among residents.

However, the decision of the CPSU Central Committee "On Improving the Work of Law Enforcement and Intensifying the Campaign Against Lawbreaking" points out that in the fight against lawlessness all the means of influencing and educating citizens have not been fully utilized by state and society. This fact was fully substantiated during the discussion of the role of residential comrade courts at the recent meeting of the Presidium of the Estonian SSR Supreme Soviet.

First, some organizational deficiencies: The number of residential comrade courts has been declining steadily in recent years. An analysis of the problem shows that many rural communities do not have comrade courts. In towns the housing authority organs are being restructured and in many instances the election of comrade courts has been neglected. For this reason the Presidium of the Estonian SSR Supreme Soviet directed that soviets of the rayons and principal towns work together with the Council on Comrade Courts to pay the necessary attention to the formation of residential comrade courts, to the improvement of their activity and cooperation with order-maintenance stations and peoples deputies, and to an increase of public participation in the work of comrade courts. The comrade courts are also looking to the peoples courts and the organs

of the internal affairs agencies for more effective assistance. It would be a mistake to overestimate the potential of a comrade court in a trial. Nevertheless, occasionally unverified, badly arranged and confused materials are presented to comrade courts. For understandable reasons such materials cause serious difficulties for the comrade court in preparing the case; the discussion tends to be lengthy and some cases go untried.

One must also consider the nature of a residential comrade court. For the local inhabitants it is the only organ empowered to employ measures of social influence in cases of insult, libel, beating, unworthy behavior within a family, etc. There are also several breaches of residential order that should be dealt with primarily by a residential court. For example, Paragraph 338 of the Estonian SSR Civil Code stipulates that if a renter or members of his family destroy or damage their residence or make it impossible for others to live with them in the same apartment or house by breaking the rules of socialist arbitration, and if warnings and other means of social influence have been unsuccessful, then the offenders can be evicted without assignment of another residence. The discussion of such offenses is within the purview of comrade courts of the housing authority, and social influences can have a real effect--in the case of repeated breaches of the rules of cohabitation, the interested parties have the right to turn to the peoples court for sanctions.

The comrade courts must also discuss complicated legal questions. This is why the legal expertise of the court members has to be raised. A network for comrade courts has been established within the peoples university of the republic. In addition, the social council for comrade courts of rayons (and towns) should pay constant attention to learning from the experiences of the best comrade courts and to disseminating these experiences, to arranging for model trials and to providing methodological guidance.

By assuring that the legislation establishing comrade courts is fulfilled and by assisting in raising of the level of activity of the residential comrade courts, the local soviets, judicial and militia organs contribute to the fight against preventable anti-social activities without resort to state coercion. This in turn establishes an atmosphere in which all breaches of the law are condemned.

9240

CSO: 1815/16

REGIONAL

ESTONIAN NOVEL REFLECTS CURRENT SOVIET LITERARY TRENDS

Tallinn RAHVA HAAL in Estonian 23 Aug 81 p 3

[Article by Hilve Rebane: "Man's Social Responsibility: Villem Gross' novel 'A Boat Overloaded'"]

[Text] The ethical concept expressed in the title of this review echoes throughout V. Gross' writings; the problems of trust and responsibility were particularly emphasized in his novels "Classmates" and "Motives for Silence" that won the J. Smuul literary prize for 1978. This is the reason for the topicality and readability of V. Gross' works, since the author's ethical attitude is born and supported by a characterization that allows a deeper, multifaceted human and situational analysis than mere superficially journalistic description allows.

The readers' reactions to V. Gross' serialization in LOOMING, as summarized on Estonian Radio, fully substantiate what has been said above. These radio programs also presented the author's viewpoints and comments. These programs facilitate the reception of his work and make his ideas easier to interpret.

The "Overloaded Boat" has one of the most contemporary settings in contemporary Soviet Estonian literature (the preparations for the 1980 Olympic regatta in Tallinn are included). The author once again describes his contemporaries, whose fate reflects the immediate past--both prewar, war, and post-war life with its social upheavals, cataclysms and changes that have brought differences in thinking as well as in human personality and relations.

In its composition and characterization the novel is confessional, a current characteristic of Soviet, as well as Estonian literature. Various social generalizations are presented in the light of private affairs, allowing us to view the character's relationships with society in realistic proportions. This was also substantiated by the first readers' reactions on the radio. The novel offers a wealth of comparative experiences from the realm of relationships and phenomena that are near, real, and important to the majority of us.

A confessional novel of an aging man is in its subject matter also something new in the contemporary Soviet Estonian prose. There is something concrete and fresh in the point of view of an intelligent, experienced person who is concerned about the fate of man and his world. This is the secret to V. Gross' novel's main attraction--the author himself is part of the generation that experienced the instability of

social relationships caused by war. The instability of the current world is proven by actual armed conflicts that harbor the danger of a world war, causing an "overload" primarily in those people who have gone through the war, who have experienced it, who know and remember it. The "overload" is also caused by several negative side effects of social progress. The novel looks at the consumer mentality that causes the characters' moral (and not only moral, since Krista Korn-Indre's moral error is also a violation of professional ethics) deficiencies. Man's life is shaped and filled by work and family relationships and environment, described in Robert Korn's diary with objective impartiality and experience-based emotions. The selected composition permits a balanced description of all psychological and social aspects; it allows us to take a position of human warmth and sympathy on behalf of those who, in spite of the instability, are able to maintain a steady world view, a positive, vigorous attitude despite the inevitable disappointments and compromises. The psychological-ethical concentration is on man's vulnerability, on man's irresponsibility, which causes psychological trauma, stifles the will to live, causes conflicts, and increases the "overload." The conscientiousness of man, his responsibility for the fate and normal life of his fellow man are firm foundations from which to build. Korn is one of those who does not recognize the "human" universal acceptance of everything, just as he does not accept those so-called agitators who assume the right to disturb the life of their fellow man (under the pretext of "organizing") from their own egotistically limited viewpoint. Thus he is one of those persons and members of society who is interested in reducing social overload, one of those whose responsibility and will has an effect in his immediate surroundings.

The permanent basis for Korn's humanism consists of classical values--work and ideals. A meaningful, intensive, satisfying work is Korn's solace in life, supporting him even when work conditions (the fairly empty routine of a lab assistant's work) or work relations (the unprincipled drunkenness of the orchestra members) are not satisfying. Ideals without work are of no value, something Korn experienced regarding his daughter, since work also shapes human relationships. Humanity begins with the need to help another human being. Korn attempts to teach his young music pupil to understand work by striving for aims and to perceive ideals and realize them as a counterbalance to the modish mentality, even in our society, of acquiring fashionable items. Korn has sympathizers in the younger generation--his daughter's husband, the poet and journalist Illimar Indre.

In addition, the scene-setting and characters are most successful in this V. Gross novel. Krista Korn-Indre in her modern self-confident consumerism, something that shapes not only manners but also relationships and attitudes, is a vital and contemporary character. She is not only a study of consumer mentality "seen from life" and journalistically composed--Krista's female charm, certain mental characteristics, her prejudices, her adherence to principles in egotistical minutiae and her ethical vacuity is described with psychological verisimilitude and vital conviction. Illimar Indre is appealing, as is Anne, a rendering of the ever-female, well-known from V. Gross' previous work.

Korn's relations with his neighbors are also interesting and representative. The novel's composition is simple, especially compared to the complexity of "Motives for Silence"; it is written simply and emotionally. We can believe that the author's message--to warn of the dangers caused by an overloaded boat and to increase every person's social responsibility--will reach the reader, thus fulfilling its social-ethical mission.

REGIONAL

SHORT HISTORY OF ESTONIAN PEASANTRY

Tallinn RAHVA HAAL in Estonian 9 Aug 81 p 2

[Article by Aarne Ruusmann, candidate of history: "The Situation of the Peasantry in Bourgeois Estonia"]

[Text] The peasantry comprised the majority of the population of bourgeois Estonia. Before the June days of 1940 750,000 people lived in the countryside. The rural population was two thirds of the population, actual farmers 55 percent. The poor dominated the class structure of the rural populace. The rural proletariat, semi-proletariat and the poor (together with family members) comprised 49 percent in 1939; middle class farmers comprised 38 percent; kulaks and rural bourgeoisie comprised 13 percent.

Hired hands, servants and other rural workers encompassed a large part of the Estonian proletariat. But due to dispersion and the character of their work, they were more poorly organized than the town proletariat. The situation of the masses of rural inhabitants was difficult during all the periods of the bourgeois republic. About one fifth of the farmers—the kulaks and the higher mid-level farmers—enjoyed better living conditions. The development of agriculture and of the rural population in bourgeois Estonia is characterized by V.I. Lenin's famous thesis: "Capitalism raises agricultural technology and carries it forward, but it cannot do it in any other way than by degenerating, humiliating and subjugating the mass of small producers."

True, in bourgeois Estonian agriculture there was a certain development, especially in dairy industry, where the production more than doubled during 20 years. Production of feed grain rose about 1.5 fold and potatoes 1.2 fold. But the growth of meat, wool and food grains production was almost negligible. The loss of the Russian, especially the St. Petersburg, markets was an extremely unfavorable development for Estonian agriculture. Because the prices and demand for agricultural products were low on the West European markets, meat production did not progress, flax growing declined; the farmers received little from dairying as well.

Although there were certain changes in the social situation of the peasantry, the changes did not improve the condition of the working farmers, especially of the lower segments. The major change was the agrarian reform that changed Estonia from a pseudo-feudal large- and small-landholding country into a capitalist small-landholding country. But the land reform was carried out basically only in the

interest of the bourgeoisie. Estate lands expropriated from Baltic barons were distributed primarily as farmlands to White Guard officers and soldiers, as well as to several bourgeois functionaries. The poorest village segments were left completely without land. Later, especially after the 1 December 1924 uprising, about half the estate workers received small parcels of land.

The active proletarian movement of the 1920s forced the ruling bourgeoisie to uphold certain conditions in rural areas. One of them was the Squatter Law. Who were the squatters? They were small renters on farmland, a peculiar category that had come into being late in the last century. During the time of farm purchases and later, some farmers had permitted their poorer relatives and hired hands with families to build and to farm on the edges of the farmlands.

Times went by, generations changed. New farmers as a rule did not permit the establishment of new squatters. On the contrary, they attempted to liquidate the existing ones. The problem of farmer and squatter became acute long before World War I.

This was also a serious problem during the Finnish Civil War in the beginning of 1918. Learning from experience, the Estonian bourgeois at the very beginning of its rule passed a law that forbade the eviction of the squatters. Nevertheless, the future of the squatters was insecure until in 1926 the Riigikogu [parliament] passed a squatter law permitting 10,486 squatters to purchase their small holdings. The squatters remained poor. The "concession" of the bourgeois rule consisted only in that the greedy farmers could no longer evict the squatters from houses they had built and fields they had cultivated. At the outbreak of the economic crisis in 1929, the bourgeoisie was forced to make other minor concessions to the poorer classes in the village. After the implementation of the fascist regime (on 12 March 1934), the agrarian policy of the bourgeoisie gradually changed. Instead of the previous minor concessions to the poorer segments of the village, there was an attack on them. Granting additional land was halted. Also, the so-called new settlement activity was practically nullified in stages. In 1938 a so-called protection law of rural property was passed; it forbade selling land to establish new small holdings and facilitated the purchase of land to make existing large farms even larger. A new inheritance law was prepared that was to make the property differentiation of the rural population even greater.

The agrarian policy of the 1930s especially after the establishment of the fascist dictatorship, became even more favorable to the richer classes. The first major concession to the kulaks was the establishment of a monopoly on rye in 1930. The import of cheap foreign rye was stopped. The state began to purchase and sell rye at fairly high prices. As a result, both the price of bread and rye flour rose considerably in the country. And since the kulaks were the main growers of marketed rye, they reaped profits at the expense of consumers. The kulaks were also favored in the granting of credits for melioration works, construction and machine purchase, etc. The policy of the bourgeois republic toward hired hands and servants was a particular favor to the kulaks.

The situation of farm workers in bourgeois Estonia was considerably worse than in developed capitalist states. The workday was long with no sickness insurance, child support, or old-age pensions. It was especially bad that the farmers preferred unmarried farm workers, inhibiting the latter from establishing families.

During the great economic crisis (1929-1933) workers, including farm workers, had to be content with the lowest salaries and the worst working conditions. After the crisis passed, the situation changed somewhat. Salaries rose and job offerings increased. The kulaks were not content with a rise in farm salaries; they began to complain about a lack of labor and demanded special measures from the government.

The government began to meet the increasingly strident demands of the kulaks. To halt a rise in salaries, almost 700 farm workers were brought into Estonia from Poland in 1937; during the next year this number rose to 3,886 and to 4,756 in 1939, i.e. 10.4 percent of the total number of annual and seasonal adult workers. They were paid about a quarter less than Estonian farm workers.

There were other measures to slow rising farm salaries. During seasonal work, artificial unemployment was created in other branches of the economy to force people to look for work with the kulaks.

The farm labor law of 1939 was a serious blow to hired hands and servants. Compared to the previous (1921) law, this act gave the farmers considerable privileges regarding length of the workday, use of child labor, fines and sanctions.

But due to the stubborn resistance of the farm workers, the government measures did not have the effect that the kulaks expected. As a result, the kulaks began to demand even more serious measures from the government, with that of mandatory labor being the most serious one.

The kulaks began talking of mandatory labor as early as 1938, and it was demanded especially stridently in the fall of 1939, when it became apparent that due to the war, foreign labor could not be utilized. The kulaks' forum, the Chamber of Agriculture, adopted at its 6 June 1940 plenary meeting, a resolution to "implement a general mandatory labor institute..": to "establish a center with sufficient authority." This was the only way by which farm workers would in the future be paid low salaries.

The above measures deepened class hatred and revolutionary sentiments not only among farm workers but also among the poorer landholders. Thus ripened the preconditions for the 1940 socialist revolution in the Estonian village.

9240

CSO: 1815/14

REGIONAL

ESTONIAN SOCIAL MINISTER STATES GOALS FOR NEXT 5-YEAR PLAN

Tallinn RAHVA HAAL in Estonian 25 Aug 81 p 2

[Article by Gustav Sarri, minister of Social Welfare of the Estonian SSR: "On Behalf of Better Days: About the Development of Social Insurance and Welfare in the Republic"]

[Text] The "Basic Directions of Economic and Social Development of the USSR for 1981-1985 and the Period until 1990," adopted by the 26th CPSU Congress, envision a far-reaching program for improving the quality of life of the Soviet people, with further development of social insurance and social welfare being one component of this trend. What has been planned in the above program is already being implemented. This January the CPSU Central Committee and the USSR Council of Ministers adopted directives on the "Means of Further Improving the Social Welfare of the People," and on "Means to Increase State Support to Families with Children." These directives include a gamut of measures that, once realized in the course of the 11th and also the following 12th Five-Year Plans will result in larger pensions for a considerable part of our aged persons, invalids, and families without breadwinners; it will also result in the further expansion of the network of social welfare institutions and the improvement of services to citizens in these institutions. New methods of improving domestic care of needy aged and invalids will be implemented; material and environmental conditions of veterans of the Great Patriotic War will be improved. State aid to families with children will increase considerably, and benefits accorded to working women will be expanded.

Plans call for raising the minimum old age pension to 50 rubles this year (pensions for invalids and families without breadwinners will be increased correspondingly). This raise affects almost 71,000 pensioners in our republic.

According to a proposal of the Union Council of Collective Farms the minimum kolkhoz pension will also be increased this year. This is undoubtedly an important step toward making the pensions of kolkhoz members and workers comparable. It must be noted that the kolkhozes of our republic have consistently improved the pensions of their members who are unable to work. Last year, for example, the kolkhoz paid supplementary pensions to 17,600 kolkhoz members whose pensions were lower than the corresponding state pensions. More than 60 percent of the republic's kolkhozes pay supplemental pensions on the premise that the pensions, when added to payments from the central pension fund, will amount to at least the

minimum of the corresponding state pension. This principle has been implemented in its entirety in the enterprises of the Harju, Kohtla-Järve, Paide, Rakvere, Rapla, and Valga rayons. All told, kolkhozes paid out more than 6 million rubles to assist aged and infirm kolkhoz members.

The plans for subsequent years call for an increase in the pensions of workers and employees who retired more than 10 years ago, with the aim of making their pensions equal to that of workers with identical qualifications. In first order the pensions of those receiving less than 60 rubles monthly will be increased. The actuality and the need for this legislation is obvious; life itself has dictated it. After all, in recent years workers' salaries have been raised considerably in many branches of the national economy; therefore the annuities are also considerably higher than those of workers or employees who worked in the same occupation or place of employment 10 to 12 years ago.

The increase in the amount of previously earned pensions to bring them in line with contemporary conditions is another proof of the constant care that our party and state devote to the welfare of the Soviet people.

State aid to single mothers will increase considerably at the end of the year. The support payment will be raised to 20 rubles a month and the payments will be continued until the child has come of age.

A network of social welfare institutions within the republic must be developed and expanded. Currently, we have 38 state, 2 enterprise (the model fishing kolkhoz imeni Kirov and the Vinni model sovkhoz), and 2 inter-enterprise (at Kihelkonna in Kingissepp rayon and at Noo in Tartu rayon) facilities with a total of about 6,150 beds.

The network of these institutions expanded during the last five-year plan. A new building was completed at Erastvere (250 beds); an assembly of buildings was constructed at Voisiku, including a nursing home with 200 beds, dining facilities, a heating plant, and staff housing. In Iru the nursing home was expanded by 200 beds and a new nursing facility was dedicated at Somera in Kingissepp rayon (450 beds). As mentioned above, the network of care facilities and the number of beds in them is quite large in our republic. However, actual requirements are still larger. It is known that the proportion of aged in our population is relatively large; also large is the number of persons without a legal guardian and thus eligible for care in state institutions. Calculations show that the optimal number of nursing home beds in our republic is from 8,500 to 8,600. It should also be noted that several of the functioning homes are located in old and generally unsuitable buildings.

Unfortunately, one must state that we are not yet satisfied with the tempo of construction and rehabilitation of social welfare facilities. Sums appropriated for that purpose in the state budget remain partially unused. Consequently, the completion of programmed construction is being delayed. Everything must be done to assure smooth and well-planned work on all projects included in the 11th Five-Year Plan. Plans call for beginning construction of an addition to the Koeru nursing home this year.

Subsequent plans call for increased use of drafted resources of plants, institutions and collectives to construct nursing homes and care facilities. The Kohtla-Järve soviet, which took an active lead in bringing in resources for adding 150 beds to the Aa nursing home, can serve as an example. That building was opened in the first quarter of this year.

Along with constructing new buildings constant attention must be paid to renovating social care institutions and maintaining their grounds, as well as to improving the medical, cultural, and everyday services of the patients.

One important task for this five year-plan is the development of auxiliary and small agricultural facilities colocated with the nursing homes, and the intensification of their activities. This facilitates a better supply of meat and dairy products and fresh vegetables to the nursing homes.

Many new services will be established for pensioners and the aged in our republic, especially the aged living alone. New service methods are currently being tried out in Pärnu, Tartu, and Tallinn, as well as the Kingissepp, Jõgeva and other rayons. The starting point for developing services to invalids and the aged must be the registering of those in need. That task has been accomplished in all the towns and rayons of the republic. The next step in serving the aged and invalids is assisting them to meet the most urgent requirements of daily life (obtaining fuel, tending the garden, maintaining the apartment, etc). A method of caring for the aged as practiced by the Rahava Voit [People's Victory] kolkhoz of Harju Rayon is undoubtedly a promising one. There a certain number of apartments is reserved for the aged in the new houses built by the kolkhoz. In this way the aged are assembled into the collective or department centers as opposed to being isolated on distant farms and forest areas and can be supplied with hot meals from the kolkhoz dining facility; their medical care can be managed, etc.

In Tartu there are plans for assigning 60 1-2 room apartments in a new building to single senior citizens and aged couples. This centralization allows some new home services (care for the sick, purchase and transport of food, providing hot meals, apartment cleanup, etc).

At the initiative of the republic's Social Security Administration of the Collective Farms a prototype project is being prepared to serve as a model for constructing housing for the enterprises (on an intra- or inter-enterprise basis).

On a parallel basis, new housing units with modern conveniences are being built in the republic; they completely conform to the norms of the USSR Committee on Construction.

Great tasks have been outlined for the new five year-plan in the field of social security and welfare. Undoubtedly, they will be met successfully, since all offices, enterprises, collectives, and social organizations of the republic are participating. The town and rayon committees of the Party and the executive committees of the local soviets are paying increased attention to this sector.

9240

CSO: 1815/17

REGIONAL

ESTONIAN COMMUNICATIONS MINISTER ON INDUSTRY GOALS

Tallinn RAHVA HAAL in Estonian 18 Aug 81 p 2

[Article by Arvo Kaldma: "In the Interests of the National Economy and People"]

[Text] The previous work of the personnel of the Estonian SSR Communications Ministry has laid a certain basis for improving the communications needs of the economy and the people in the 11th Five-Year Plan. The plans and socialist obligations of the previous five-year period were met. For that reason we accepted with particular satisfaction the congratulations from the CPSU Secretary General and Chairman of the Supreme Soviet, Comrade L. I. Brezhnev to the workers, engineer-technicians, and employees of the USSR Communications Ministry on the occasion of a great labor achievement, i.e., meeting the tasks of the 10th Five-Year Plan ahead of schedule.

The growth of communications in our republic was rapid in the previous five years. This is evidenced by such indicators as a 144 percent growth in communications services. During the five years communications services exceeded the plan by two million rubles. A central automatic telephone exchange was opened in Tallinn, and a new TV tower was opened at Kloostrimetsa. The Main Post Office of Tallinn, repeatedly champion in the Union-wide socialist competition of communications workers, moved into new quarters in the first building of the Postal Center.

In developing communications, we pursue two basic aims. One is to serve the people better. To that end we apply new production resources and search for ways to improve the quality of service; we attempt to place the means of communication in places convenient to the user. This aim derives directly from the main task of the 11th Five Year Plan--securing continued growth of the welfare of the Soviet people.

A second and no less important aim is the maximal fulfillment of the requirements of the national economy. In the pursuit of both aims we also look for means to increase the efficiency of work in our branch in order to guarantee improved results with a minimum expense of labor and materials.

Much energy and large sums will still have to be spent to develop an infrastructure of roads, transport and communications to the point that they will catch up with the increasing demands of the economy. The possibilities of developing

communications are determined by the economic and scientific-technical potential, but it would be naive to expect a rapid satisfaction of all desires. Our needs are increasing rapidly and steadily, and this is stimulated by the low tariffs of the USSR. For example, in other countries both telephone installation and toll calls are considerably more expensive.

We also have to keep in mind the need for uniform development. To be sure, it is impossible to equalize the development of a telephone network in all rayons, but major differences are also unacceptable. For example, the density of residential telephones in Tartu is lower than the average of the republic, consequently some other towns of the republic have to wait for the completion of the new Tartu telephone exchange before expanding their own telephone network.

Speaking of developing communications in towns, I would like to stress that more emphasis should be placed on comprehensive construction when establishing new residential areas. A single agent must be found to construct facilities for the various branches of the economy to guarantee that necessary agencies, facilities and communications facilities are installed at the right time to meet the new neighborhoods' requirements. Experience shows that construction of communications facilities proceeds most smoothly when orders have been placed by the local soviet. This method has been successfully applied in several towns, including Tallinn, and it should be used more consistently in the future, especially in the construction of automatic telephone exchanges.

What are the plans of the communications industry for future years?

We see as one of the main tasks the improvement of television reception. During the previous five-year plan, improved program viewing was implemented in rayon centers, and the relay of the second program of Central Television was initiated in Tallinn. The aim is to enable the entire republic to view two programs. For that purpose a radio-TV station with new antennas will be built at Kohtla-Järve, and the search is underway near Tartu for a location for a similar powerful transmitter to relay programs to southeast Estonia. In central Estonia construction of a new transmitter will also be begun in the 11th Five-Year Plan. Construction of these antennas will be a big, expensive job, lasting about three years each. Several weak transmitters in the current radio-TV network will be replaced by new ones; this will expand the reception area considerably. The new transmitters will operate predominantly on decimeter wavelengths to avoid mutual interference.

The quality of the new decimeter TV transmitters is impeccable, as shown by experience. However, greater attention must be paid to the reception network in Tallinn--we have to view the programs with new TV sets or modified existing older sets. These questions have been discussed at length in the press by personnel of the "Elektron" collective of the Ministry for Services. In the second quarter of this year the Radio and TV Program Center transferred to a new tower the transmitter relaying the Leningrad program to Tallinn in order to free space for the TV and Radio Committee. Because the new location is further away for many receivers, the quality of reception could have deteriorated somewhat, especially if the local reception antenna was directed toward the old tower. However, these

difficulties should be minor, since the new tower is higher than the old, and the distance of the move was not great. Nevertheless, a new powerful transmitter will replace the one used for the Leningrad programs; it will, of course, beam on the decimeter wavelength.

The development of telephone communications will continue during the current five-year plan. First, I would like to mention the incorporation of the entire republic in direct, long-distance dialing. Valga will be last to be incorporated (there are currently no facilities for placing the installations; they will become available after the new communications center is completed). The construction of new telephone exchanges and the expansion of old ones will also continue.

The effect of capital investments in telephone communications (and communications in general) will be realized not only by the communication system but also by all branches of the economy. We expect, therefore, that enterprises and organizations will participate to a greater degree in developing communications by contributing capital investments in order to assure the services of a general telephone system both in the interests of production and improvements in the living conditions of their personnel. The need for this is demonstrated by the numerous applications for residential telephone service submitted by agencies and enterprises. A strong foundation for subscription telephone service was laid during the 10th Five-Year Plan and work will continue on an as-needed basis. Systems for data transmission will also expand during the 11th Five-Year Plan.

Mail service will be improved by a comprehensive automation of processing stations, the opening of new communications centers and the expansion of new ones. In addition to the already mentioned communications center of Valga we are awaiting the completion of a new communications center in Kohtla-Järve and of a new addition to the Pärnu center. Plans will be made for an addition to the Tallinn Mail-Processing Center and for a second phase of the Main Post Office.

Press circulation is an integral part of the communications system. New kiosks will be put into use. We are also looking at the possibilities of opening new shops, including philately shops. To increase productivity and improve work conditions, we will expand the use of electronic control and registration machines.

Automation in communications is becoming more prevalent; ADP is coming into greater use. One of the current tasks consists of preparing trained personnel and raising the qualifications of existing personnel. Each year more than 600 communications workers must attend qualification courses.

Labor conditions and the quality of service of our communications workers has improved, but much is yet to be done in this field. We must generalize and disseminate the achievements of champion workers, learn and implement advances made by neighboring republics. At the 18th Congress of the ESSR Communist Party Comrade K. Vayno's report drew attention to areas of the communications industry where improvements are needed. These include expanded TV coverage, better telephone service and an expanded telephone network, as well as improved postal service.

The fulfillment of these tasks will be the basic directive for all our collectives during the 11th Five-Year Plan.

9240

CSO: 1815/18

REGIONAL

GEORGIAN FAMILY BUDGETS, STANDARD OF LIVING ON THE RISE

Tbilisi KOMUNISTI in Georgian 14 Aug 81 p 2

[Article by Docent, Economics Candidate K. Elizbarashvili: "How the Family Budget Is Growing. Developed Socialism and Concern for the People's Wellbeing"]

[Text] The building of developed socialism has raised many questions of our country's economic, social-political, and spiritual development in a new way.

The main task of the Ninth Five-Year Plan was to substantially raise the people's material and cultural standard of living. In the 10th Five-Year Plan we consistently followed the Communist Party's course of action in order to further enhance the people's material and cultural standard of living.

"The main task of the 11th Five-Year Plan," we read in the decisions of the 26th CPSU Congress, "is to further enhance the Soviet people's wellbeing...."

Hence, as the Basic Guidelines of the Economic and Social Development of the USSR for 1981-1985 and the Period Through 1990 emphasize, the main task of the 1980's is to achieve a steady rise in the people's material and cultural standard of living, to create better conditions for all-round development of the individual.

Such is the requirement of the fundamental economic law of socialism, the highest goal of social production as fixed in the constitution.

The party's and government's efforts to improve the people's wellbeing have been stepped up considerably in the past ten years. This is attested in many ways. Consider, for example, the rate of growth in the people's real income. For about half the country's population now the income per family member is over 100 rubles; in 1970 the figure was 18 percent.

Moreover, essential measures are being implemented to equalize the standard of living of all groups of working people. At the 26th CPSU Congress, L. I. Brezhnev cited this significant fact: In the 1970's, the number of worker, employee, and kolkhoznik families with a per capita monthly income of more than 100 rubles almost tripled. Conversely, the number of families with a per capita monthly income of less than 50 rubles declined by about the same amount.

Georgia's workers, like all the Soviet people, live better today than ever. Nevertheless, as was justifiably pointed out at the 26th GCP Congress, every effort is

being made to make the lives of the Soviet people, the republic's population, every citizen, every family, every worker, our children, our mothers and our fathers, more productive, meaningful, and prosperous.

Indeed it is so. It is attested in many ways, by the accelerated development of our economic potential. For example, in the early 1970's our republic was in twelfth place in terms of rate of growth and increase of the global [sovokupnyy] social product; now it holds second place. In terms of national income it moved from eleventh to first place.

The result has been a substantial rise in the standard of living. Average monthly wages for the republic's workers and employees rose by 1.4 times over 1970, while kolkhoz pay doubled and more. Add to this the measures designed to meet the people's needs out of the social consumption fund, and we find that real income has increased by 1.6 times.

If we consider that our country's economic potential doubles every 10 years and real income doubles in about 15, and that in a man's lifetime a socialist society rises several times to qualitatively new levels of consumption, we can see more easily the profound changes that are taking place with regard to the dynamic and structural enhancement of the Soviet family's budget.

This is graphically demonstrated in the case of Georgia. Let us cite some figures and facts.

Calculation shows that in the last 10 years alone family budgets in our republic have risen by about 1.6 times; kolkhozniks' income and outgo have increased by 78 percent.

Because of this rate of growth, noteworthy changes are taking place in the Georgian people's family budget compared to the all-union average. In 1970, for example, the global income of workers' and employees' families in Georgia was 87 percent of the all-union average; in 1979 it was 91 percent.

In recent years, substantial positive changes have taken place in family budget income and outgo; the structure of spending is undergoing fundamental improvement. An especially rapid growth rate characterizes workers' purchases of the kinds of durable goods that make life easier and more pleasant.

Hence, despite the absolute rise, the percentage of spending on food products is declining markedly. In 1970, for example, kolkhoz families spent 36.5 percent of their income on food; in 1980 it was 31 percent.

An analysis of family budgets indicates a definite inequality in the social structure of food product consumption. Workers and employees and their families need substantially more food (not counting bread) than kolkhozniks. But the difference is growing smaller.

In order to plan the management of the national economy, in particular retail trade, it is essential to know the correlation of the global annual income of workers-employees and kolkhozniks. The republic's kolkhoz family budgets now substantially exceed those of workers and employees, although when figured per family member the latter is considerably more than the former. An analysis of the general findings of

family budgets indicates that Georgia has not only overcome the chronic economic lag that developed in the 1960's but now, in fact, is proudly in the forefront among the union republics. Moreover, in the 10-year period social labor productivity has risen by almost 1.8 times--by 38 percent in the 10th Five-Year Plan alone, in fact. The result has been a 14.8 percent decrease in the difference between the republic's figures and the all-union average.

Thus, the Soviet people's rising standard of living is inseparably linked to the growth of social production and higher labor productivity. It is a fact that society can distribute and consume only that which has been produced. To put it another way, how we live today and how we live tomorrow depends on us and our labor.

This was the substance of the recent Third GCP CC Plenum. Participants noted that we still have serious shortcomings and problems along with the successes we have achieved in recent years.

The people's wellbeing, as E. A. Shevardnadze stated at the plenum, and concern to enhance the people's standard of living, have always been uppermost in the efforts of the party and the state.

6854

CSO: 1813/015

REGIONAL

BELORUSSIAN PLENUM DISCUSSES CADRE PROBLEM IN AGRICULTURE

Moscow SEL'SKAYA ZHIZN' in Russian 25 Sep 81 p 2

[Article by V. Legan'kov, correspondent of SEL'SKAYA ZHIZN', BSSR: "Party Concern for the Cadres of the Village. From the Central Committee Plenum of the Communist Party of Belorussia"]

[Text] The agricultural sector of Belorussia has a powerful productive base and significant material, financial and labor resources. The center of gravity--and that is the distinctive feature of agricultural policy in the 1980's--is being shifted in accordance with the demands of the 26th CPSU Congress to the efficiency of capital investments, the growth of productivity in agriculture, and the extension and perfection of its links with all sectors of the industrial complex. The situation calls for a decisive increase in the efficiency of land use, especially of improved land, machines, fertilizers, and feeds, for an increase in the yield of all crops and the productivity of livestock-raising. To solve these complex and responsible tasks is only within the power of those farm collectives which are headed by highly-qualified and competent directors and specialists who take the initiative.

Measures in regard to the improvement of the selection, placement and training of leading cadres in the kolkhozes and sovkhoses of the republic were examined in the light of the demands of the 26th CPSU Congress by the plenum of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Belorussia held in Minsk. In the report of the second secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Belorussia, V. I. Brovnikov, in the speech at the plenum of T. Ya. Kiselev, candidate member of the Politburo of the Central Committee of the CPSU and first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Belorussia, and in speeches, it was noted that the cadre question is the key question of party influence on the state of affairs in agriculture.

The position of chairman of a kolkhoz or director of a sovkhos carries with it especially great responsibility in the village. Considerable experience has been accumulated in the republic with regard to the selection and training of these cadres. A whole galaxy of talented leaders of kolkhoz and sovkhos production has grown up here. Quite a few names were named at the plenum and convincing examples were cited of how a creative approach to work and a high degree of responsibility in the work of those people help the collectives from year to year to attain new

successes and to guarantee a high level of economic operation under complex conditions of any kind.

Nevertheless, it was emphasized at the plenum, there are no grounds for complacency. According to a number of important considerations, the republic's agriculture is developing at an inadequate rate. The available possibilities are still not fully utilized by far. The shortcomings in the economic activity of kolkhozes and sovkhozes are the direct consequence of serious omissions in the work of some gorkoms, raykoms and obkoms of the party with respect to the strengthening of all links of agricultural production through good cadres.

For purposes of comparison, the state of affairs in two neighboring regions are analyzed--the Ostrovetskiy Rayon of Grodnenskaya Oblast and the Postavskiy Rayon of Vitebskaya Oblast. Their natural and economic conditions are identical, and the soil in Postavskiy Rayon is even more fertile. The indicators of the yield of the basic crops and the production of milk and meat in the Ostrovetskiy Rayon are one and a half to two times higher. And in the Postavskiy Rayon, which not so long ago was not among those lagging behind, the trend is in a backward direction. The output of gross production during the 10th Five-Year-Plan decreased by 10 percent by comparison with the 9th Five-Year-Plan.

The problem of the farms that are lagging behind, the speakers said, is above all a problem of the style of leadership prevailing at them. There are kolkhozes and sovkhozes that are making no headway for years because they are headed by weak directors. And, you know, there are no shortages of trained cadres in the republic. The following facts testify to their high business and professional level. If five years ago, for example, superior qualifications among kolkhoz chairmen and specialists accounted for a little more than 70 percent, the comparable figure now is 85 percent. The level of professional training among sovkhoz directors is even higher. On the average, there are 25 specialists for every farm, including 8 with a higher education. Among the leaders of the average link 70 percent are specialists with higher and average qualifications. This is almost double the figure of ten years ago.

Exposing the reasons for the fact that to this day the posts of kolkhoz chairmen, sovkhoz directors and other responsible positions are at times held by people who are sluggish, show no initiative, and are weak organizers and educators, the participants of the plenum emphasized that this happens when the party committees allow haste in decisions involving cadre questions. Candidates for promotion are at times judged not on the basis of concrete records, but on the basis of questionnaire data, communists are not consulted, and the opinions of collectives where they work are not taken into account. For some party committees, frequent rearrangements, the so-called "cadre quadrille", have become a common occurrence. During the past five years, more than 60 percent of the kolkhoz chairmen and sovkhoz directors in the republic have been replaced, many being relieved from their job for having failed to secure the execution of the work entrusted to them or for having compromised themselves. The removability of these workers is especially great in the Mogilevskaya Oblast, the Minskaya Oblast and the Gomel'skaya Oblast.

This happens, it was noted at the plenum, not only because of errors in the selec-

tion of people. Frequently the young, inexperienced director does not receive assistance and support from the raykom of the party. And another extremity is also tolerated: the absence of proper permission, the absence of control and connivance --which leads some directors in their work and personal conduct from insignificant shortcomings to gross mistakes and to violations of the norms and principles of communist morality.

An increase in exactingness toward cadres must be an integral part of the daily organizational work of any link of the party and state apparatus. On the whole there is no shortage in the republic with respect to various types of check-ups, at times even superfluous ones. But frequently they suffer from formalism and red-tape methods, they are concluded with the composition of the scheduled paper, but not with the elimination of the exposed shortcomings. Let us say, for almost ten years already the director of the "Prizyv" Sovkhoz of the Krupskiy Rayon of the Minskaya Oblast, P. S. Triputen', has been trying to direct the production subdivisions by means of flying visits. And it is not surprising that things in the fields and on the farms are going badly.

There was serious talk at the plenum about the responsibility of the primary party organizations in the work with cadres. They have great possibilities to influence effectively all aspects of life in the village. It is necessary for them to intensify the educational work, to utilize more fully the right of control of the activity of the administration and to manifest greater adherence to principles in this matter.

All those who spoke at the plenum in one way or another touched on the role of the specialists in agriculture. A number of concrete suggestions were offered with respect to improving their selection, the perfection of their training, lowering their turnover rate, and increasing the efficiency of the work of field and farm technologists. Critically assessed was the fact that up to now approximately 40 percent of the main specialists in the republic, and in the Vitebskaya Oblast every second main specialist in agriculture, do not have a higher education. To a significant extent, this happens because of the instability of cadres and their high degree of turnover in the kolkhozes and sovkhozes. In a number of places specialists are utilized irrationally, and sometimes simply not in accordance with their designation. Their energy is often dissipated in the compilation of various types of reports which have nothing to do with the technology of production.

There are cases where people do not listen to the voice of the specialists, where their opinion is ignored. Many farms still fail to manifest the necessary concern for the creation of normal working and living conditions of this category of workers. For example, 5,000 specialists even now are living in private apartments and many do not have the possibility of starting a home of their own and of arranging for their children to attend kindergarten and day-nurseries. As a result, a significant number of young production technologists frequently move from farm to farm and sometimes simply leave the village. At the present time, more than 10,000 agronomists, technicians and veterinary doctors are working in sectors not connected with the agricultural sector of the economy. There has been an unjustified increase in the number of workers in the republic and oblast links of administration. During the past ten years the central apparatus of administration in agriculture has increased

by 34 percent. A clear discrepancy has developed in the republic: For every specialist in production, there are three to four in the administrative apparatus.

With every year work in the fields and farms of the republic is getting easier; housing is being built in the village, as well as kindergarten facilities, dining halls, stores, schools, and enterprises of domestic services; the well-being of the kolkhoz and sovkhoz workers is growing. But the outflow of the labor force from the rural locality, especially of young mechanics, continues. The shortage of mechanics and the low level of qualifications of part of them is one of the main reasons for the delay in field work, harvest losses and shortages in livestock production. The party, soviet and agricultural organs, as was noted in the decree adopted at the plenum, must still more persistently and objectively decide the complex problems of social development. This will facilitate the keeping of specialists of all ranks in production and will allow the republic to fulfill successfully the growing plans for the production and sale of agricultural produce.

8970

CSO: 1800/48

REGIONAL

LATVIAN OFFICIAL DESCRIBES REPUBLIC'S FOOD PROGRAM

Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 26 Sep 81 p 2

[Article by Vitaliy Aleksandrovich Chern, secretary of the CPLa Central Committee (Riga): "Good Final Results Are the Main Goal"]

[Text] Our republic's agricultural workers will have much to do in the 11th Five-Year Plan. The "Basic Directions for the Economic and Social Development of the USSR During 1981-1985 and During the Period up to 1990," adopted at the 26th CPSU Congress, envisage an increase of 12-14 percent in the Latvian gross agricultural product. We must annually produce an average of 2-2.1 million tons of grain, 1.7-1.8 million tons of potatoes and over 300,000 tons of sugar beets. We must also diversify the vegetable assortment considerably, bring the gross vegetable yield up to 215,000 tons and substantially increase sales of meat, milk and eggs to the state.

These volumes and indicators lie at the basis of the Latvian SSR food program, which has now been compiled in its final form. The draft program was approved by USSR Gosplan. A large group of specialists from ministries, departments, kolkhozes and sovkhoses, the personnel of local soviets of people's deputies and planning organizations and scientists took part in its compilation.

The food program envisages the proportioned and balanced development of all branches of the agroindustrial complex; furthermore, it does not only envisage an increase in output, but also an improvement in its storage, shipment, processing and delivery to consumers. This will be achieved with the aid of precise, coordinated measures, specifying the exact volumes of resources, specific executors and precise schedules. We compiled the food program with a view to the experience accumulated in Latvia in the last 5 years in the compilation of special comprehensive programs. This method of planning will allow for the more effective attainment of planned results with lower expenditures of labor and resources.

Our program has four main sections: "Fodder Production," "Infrastructure," "Agricultural Service" and "Product Processing and Sales." The fodder production section is the main one. Much was done in the last 5 years to improve fodder production, new technology was incorporated for the procurement of haylage, grass meal and chopped straw, experiments were conducted with preservatives, and dozens of new fodder shops were built. But it turned out that this was not enough to provide animal husbandry with fodder, especially during the winter. Each farm must procure

at least 35-40 quintals of fodder units a year per head of cattle. This will necessitate the radical revision of the fodder crop structure and the cultivation of a higher percentage of high-protein feed. This is why we will begin planting more legume crops in 1981, primarily peas, vetch, beans and lupine with a high protein content.

Programs for the provision of animal husbandry with protein fodder have been drawn up by each farm and each rayon. This has resulted in the conservation of significant quantities of forage grass and the augmentation of livestock productivity.

Important steps have been taken for the successful fulfillment of five-year-plan assignments for animal husbandry output. The average annual meat output in live weight must reach 455,000 tons. Sales of meat to the state will increase to 400,000 tons in 1985. Sales of milk will increase to 1.65 million tons. The scientifically substantiated measures of the food program will help us to perform this work successfully, make maximum use of all existing reserves and utilize material and technical resources more efficiently.

For example, it specifies the most efficient fodder structure and measures to improve seed production and the provision of farms with storage facilities for grain, coarse and succulent feeds and mineral fertilizer. Important steps are specified for the elevation of farming standards, the reduction of losses during fodder harvesting, procurement and storage operations, and so forth.

By the end of the 5 years expenditures of all types of fodder are expected to total 6.2 million tons. In other words, public animal husbandry's need for fodder will be completely satisfied.

In addition, the combination feed industry will be developed further. Research will continue and production will be expanded on the Kekava Kolkhoz in Rzhyskiy Rayon in connection with unicellular organisms (chlorella) and biologically active supplements for livestock. In all, capital investments in the development of fodder production in the republic will be 1.7 times as great in the 11th Five-Year Plan as in the last 5 years.

The weather in the last 3 years has been unfavorable for republic agriculture. Experience has shown, however, that economically weak farms suffer the most from bad weather. Conversely, strong farms resist nature's onslaught successfully and continue to increase their output. Consequently, the economic development of lagging kolkhozes and sovkhoses constitutes an important reserve of production growth on the republic level. At the initiative of the CPLA Central Committee, this matter was carefully studied in each rayon. The main prerequisite is a comprehensive approach. It will be important to help lagging collectives not only in the acquisition of new equipment and the erection of modern facilities, but also in the construction of housing, consumer facilities and roads. Specific measures have been planned to reinforce and enlarge the rural network of construction organizations.

This is how the comprehensive plan of measures was born. It is now part of the food program in the form of an "Infrastructure" section. In addition to allocating funds for agriculture, ministries and departments will perform construction and installation work worth 127 million rubles in rural areas. The work will include the

construction, primarily on lagging farms, of cafeterias, stores, enterprises and consumer service stations, interfarm roads, branches of organizations serving kol-khozes and sovkhozes, etc.

Our experimental housing construction combine will master the erection of buildings for socioconsumer purposes in the city of Livany at the end of the five-year plan. These will be erected first on economically weak farms. The installation of gas lines in villages and production facilities will be carried out on a broad scale.

The work on these plans had a successful beginning. Construction schedules were drawn up for each farm. They include an annual breakdown of all construction projects, executors and projected completion dates. Effective control over the progress of the work has been organized in all rayons with the aid of local soviets.

In a speech at the October (1980) CPSU Central Committee Plenum, Comrade L. I. Brezhnev stressed that when the food program is being drawn up, it will be necessary to "coordinate questions connected with the development of agriculture and the industrial branches serving it, the procurement, storage, shipment and processing of agricultural products and the development of the food industry and the grocery trade.... This agroindustrial, food complex must be planned, financed and managed as a single entity, ensuring good final results." The "Agricultural Service" and "Product Processing and Sales" sections of our food program are aimed precisely at this kind of comprehensive development.

Carrying out the instructions of the CPSU Central Committee in regard to the further improvement of agricultural production management, Latvian scientists and specialists have drafted the basic statutes on the establishment and functioning of rayon agroindustrial associations. They were drawn up with a view to the work experience of the Talsinskiy Agroindustrial Association, which is made up of all kolkhozes and sovkhozes in Talsinskiy Rayon, as well as the enterprises and organizations serving them and processing agricultural products, regardless of their departmental jurisdiction. In this way, the rayon agroindustrial association takes in all of the main subdivisions connected with the production and processing of agricultural products, technical services and rural construction.

The results of its work testify that this form of management is most effective on the level of the administrative rayon under the conditions of the intense specialization and concentration of agricultural production on the basis of interfarm cooperation and agroindustrial integration. This experiment has been a complete success and has led to the more effective use of capital investments in the interest of the further development of the entire rayon agroindustrial complex.

For example, although the farms of the Talsinskiy association have soil which corresponds to average republic quality standards and are provided with the same quantity of material and technical supplies per unit of area as other farms, they had a gross product valued at 52,600 rubles last year per 100 hectares of farmland, producing 144 quintals of meat and 595 quintals of milk. These figures are much higher than the republic averages.

It is significant that potential for the production of meat, milk and other products on private subsidiary farms is utilized better within the framework of the rayon association.

The Talsinskiy association is doing much to equalize the economic conditions of farming for the economic development of lagging farms. For example, in the 10th Five-Year Plan 800 hectares were put in operation on the previously weak Kurzema and Tin'gera Kolkhozes, and 1,400 hectares of reclaimed lands were put in operation on the Dundaga Kolkhoz. Animal husbandry farms were remodeled and modernized here, and a hog-breeding complex for 10,000 head, an interfarm fodder production shop and other facilities were built on the Dundaga Kolkhoz. It is quite significant that the farms receive large sums from centralized association funds for this purpose, which could not have been done in the past. Now they have been reinforced with experienced specialists and workers in the mass professions. As a result, the gross product of these kolkhozes in 1980 was 50-70 percent greater than in 1975.

Their economy is much stronger. The previously lagging farms are now among the leaders in terms of production growth.

We believe that the successful completion of food program assignments will necessitate the establishment of such associations in all rayons and the resolution of the problem of republicwide management of the agroindustrial complex. It would be wise to experiment with the organization of a republic agroindustrial association.

The measures to improve the agricultural complex are producing results. The harvesting of grain and other crops is more efficient now, and the quantity of coarse and succulent feeds procured for the coming winter is much greater than in the past. Sales of meat, milk, eggs, vegetables and potatoes to the state have increased noticeably on many farms. Republic party organizations and soviets of people's deputies are making every effort to ensure that each day of the five-year plan is used productively and the possibilities envisaged in the Latvian SSR food program are utilized in their entirety.

8588

CSO: 1800/31

REGIONAL

TURKMENS COMBAT FOOD SPECULATORS

Ashkhabad TURKMENSKAYA ISKRA in Russian 20 Sep 81 p 2

[Article by A. Durdyev, deputy minister of internal affairs of the TSSR: "Close off the Road to Speculators"]

[Text] This republic's kolkhoz and sovkhoz workers are doing a great deal to provide city-dwellers with on-time supplies of fresh vegetables, fruit, and cucubrits. Unfortunately, however, the demand is still not being fully satisfied. And this is being taken advantage of by certain unscrupulous people who are engaged in buying up farm produce and then selling it at speculative [black market] prices.

Employees of the TSSR Ministry of Internal Affairs and its sub-divisions, working together with the public, are waging a struggle against such speculation. In order to achieve this goal, in particular, control points have been set up on the main roads leading into the republic's capital, as well as into the oblast centers, manned by employees of the BKhSS [Struggle against Plundering Socialist Property and Speculation], GAI [State Motor-Vehicle Inspection], section inspectors of the police, and public. Raids are conducted in the course of which the amount of produce raised on citizens' private plots is compared with what is sold at the market.

Since the beginning of the present season approximately 5,000 motor vehicles have been checked out, hauling farm produce, and people have been discovered who are speculating in such agricultural commodities in the kolkhoz markets. The internal affairs organs have taken away from speculators and handed over to the cooperative trade network more than 600 tons of cucubrits, green vegetables, and potatoes.

Arrested, for example, was an inhabitant of the Kolkhoz imeni Lenin in the Tashauzskiy Rayon, Ismail Ishmetov, who had bought up a ton of tomatoes from inhabitants of the Kerkinskiy Rayon of Chardzhouaskiya Oblast for the purpose of subsequently speculating with them in Tashauz's kolkhoz market.

Employees of the OBKhSS [Department of Struggle against Plundering Socialist Property and Speculation] detained a GAZ-53 motor vehicle (ASHA No 53-64), whose driver, one Bayramkulov, after receiving 150 boxes of tomatoes at the 40 Years of the TSSR Kolkhoz for delivery to the firm's vegetable store in Ashkhabad, while on the road sold them to an inhabitant of the village council, Bagir Byashimov, who is not employed anywhere and who engages in speculation.

A driver-expeditor of the Ministry of the Fruit and Vegetable Industry's motor-vehicle transport enterprise, M. Nurberdyev, instead of delivering a load of tomatoes from the 40 Years of the TSSR Kolkhoz to Store No 6 of Ashgorplodoovoshch-torg, in order to gain a personal profit sold them for 300 rubles to A. Amanov, who obtained them for the purpose of speculation.

Criminal cases have been instigated against these plunderers of socialist property and speculators, and they will get the punishment which they deserve.

E. Saryyeva, who lives in Bezmenina, bought up from several citizens in Ashkhabad's Market No 2 30 kg of apples, 37 kg of radishes, 46 bunches of spring onions, 36 bunches of parsley, and she was arrested at the very moment of reselling these products at inflated prices.

It has been established by law that citizens have a right to sell in the kolkhoz market those farm products which they have grown on their own private plots. To do this they must have an appropriate permit, which is issued by the ispolkom of the Soviet of People's Deputies. However, this requirement is frequently violated. A number of directors of kolkhozes, sovkhoses, and other institutions, who have portioned out plots of land to their own workers, kolkhoz members, and office employees, have themselves issued permits to them. Most such permits do not indicate what kinds of farm products and in what amounts are being grown in these plots, nor are the expiration dates stipulated on these permits. Such violations are allowed particularly often in the Bakhardenskiy, Ashkhabadskiy, Gyaurskiy, and Tedzhenskiy Rayons.

During the course of our raids we have also established facts concerning the use of motor-vehicle transport for unauthorized purposes. Instead of carrying out the tasks assigned to them, the drivers of state-owned motor vehicles for a specific recompense [iron. bribe] are engaged in hauling farm products of individual citizens. Thus, in the Gyaurskiy Rayon we stopped a motor vehicle working for TRV /Transport Reserve?/ No 40-68, belonging to Automotive Enterprise No 3001. They were using it to haul potatoes which had been bought for speculation in Tedzhen.

Detained at the Ak-Su Station was a motor vehicle belonging to the Ashkhabad Irrigation System Administration, UAZ-452 for No 29-11 ASHB. Upon inspection, its driver, S. Orazov, was discovered to have 365 kg of tomatoes and 70 kg of onions, which he had bought up for the purpose of speculation.

Thus, the lack of proper supervision on the part of certain managers of automotive enterprises over the correct use of motor vehicles has allowed them to be utilized for criminal purposes, to assist speculators.

Favorable soil for speculation in farm products is also created by the fact that on kolkhozes and sovkhoses there are too few mobile reception-requisition points for receiving from the population surpluses of farm products and selling them in the kolkhoz markets based on commission principles. The Turkmen Consumers' Union and the Ministry of the Fruit and Vegetable Industry should do everything necessary so that rural inhabitants sell the surplus farm products which they have on hand to the state rather than to speculators. The ispolkoms of the Soviets of People's Deputies ought to intensify their supervision of the use of private plots of land.

Speculators are the most malicious foes of our socialist society. They strive to enrich themselves at the expense of the people's common property and the wages of honest citizens. And we must wage a most implacable struggle against them. Not only the organs of law and order but also the people's and social monitoring groups, a wide body of activists, must take an active part in this struggle. It is necessary to place a strong shield in the way of all the preconditions for the rise of speculation. And this can only be achieved by means of our common efforts.

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CSO: 1830/6

REGIONAL

RAYKOM CHIEF BACKS NORMLESS FARM BRIGADES, PAY BY FINAL HARVEST

Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 22 Sep 81 p 2

[Article by P. Alekseyev, first secretary of the Molokovskiy party raykom (Kalininskaya Oblast): "Although the Advantages Are Obvious"]

[Text] My interest was aroused by the questions raised in the PRAVDA articles by P. Kravchenko from Khar'kovskaya Oblast and N. Stepanov from Smolenskaya Oblast. I agree with the authors completely. It is time for concerted effort to heighten the productivity of land, carefully tend each plot and obtain abundant harvests. How can this goal be attained? In response to this question, a specialist would say that this will require the strict observance of agricultural regulations and the use of more fertilizer and high-grade seeds. This is true. But all of this can only work when the land has a solicitous master who realizes the value of each hectare and is wholeheartedly devoted to his fields. After all, without a master, as they say, even a house is an orphan.

I cannot forget the following occurrence. One day I visited a plot where the brigade of Hero of Socialist Labor I. Chistyakov was working. While I was speaking to Ivan Vasil'yevich, I asked him about harvest forecasts.

"The weather is not pampering us," the machine operator said, "but we will certainly obtain a ton of flax fiber from each hectare."

This yield is still beyond the abilities of many. But I. Chistyakov's brigade from the Kolkhoz imeni Lenin has made it its norm. What is the secret of this stability? Farming standards are high here and the recommendations of scientists are energetically implemented. But I think the main thing is that the kolkhoz managers are using the progressive system for the organization of labor and financial incentives for farmers successfully and are setting up normless brigades. These brigades are concerned primarily with obtaining the final product at a minimal cost. The financial compensation of the machine operator depends completely on the value of the harvest. People no longer have any reason to pursue a large output at the expense of quality. The main thing is to perform all work strictly according to schedule and conscientiously.

In short, the field contract motivates the plowman to make creative use of our most important possession--the land--and to use fertilizer, spare parts and seeds economically. This produces good results. The previously mentioned brigade of I. Chistyakov earned an average of 1.164 rubles in profits on each hectare in the last 5 years. During the best years a ruble of expenditure in flax farming produced 3 rubles in income. And we have many such collectives.

But here is a different kind of example. At the Trudovik Sovkhoz the flax is raised at a loss from year to year and the harvest is small. But the conditions here are the same as on neighboring farms. Why do the results differ? There is no truly solicitous attitude toward the land. Each spring the brigades are composed and are provided with equipment and independent assignments. But as soon as the sowing starts, everything turns upside down. A machine operator will forget all about his assigned field and will not care about the harvest because his salary depends completely on the fulfillment of a norm.

Of course we party raykom workers examine each specific case and try to learn why lagging farms are located next to leading farms and why a hectare of farmland with the same natural fertility should be used as the basis for different pay scales. We take measures to avoid "variety" in harvests and to bring lagging farms and average farms up to a higher level. But the results have not been all that good.

One of the reasons is the reluctance to accept anything new and advanced, including the normless system for the organization of labor. Some farm specialists and managers are not energetically promoting technical progress in rural areas and are working according to the old traditional methods. They have little interest in progressive labor techniques and technology and regard the mastery of advanced experience as a voluntary matter.

I think that the important thing here does not consist only of the personal characteristics of a particular administrator, his knowledge, his initiative or his sense of personal responsibility for the harvest. Of course, a real master of the land has to have all of these qualities, but we also cannot close our eyes to such facts as the following: Essentially no measures have been taken to provide specialists and managers with incentives to implement scientists' recommendations or innovations. Therefore, one of them might attend a seminar, listen attentively to all the reports and even take notes, but when he returns he does not lift a finger to put the innovation to work on his own farm. He does not have enough desire, initiative or responsibility.

If we now return to the normless brigade, we see the following picture. There are few people who would now deny the benefits of this form of labor organization and wages, but its implementation has been made difficult by the passivity of some workers. I am speaking from my own experience. The party raykom and the rayispolkom have made a great effort to promote the broader use of the piece-rate plus bonus system and to convince farm managers of its effectiveness and help them. I cannot say that these attempts have been futile. This year, for example, 70 brigades engaged in the cultivation of flax, potatoes and fodder crops converted to the system of wages according to final results. Many collectives are gathering a substantial harvest and are spending less labor and resources on its production than before.

Nevertheless, this form of work organization has been slow to take hold. At a number of farms the normless brigades have either made no difference or have fallen apart. There is no question that we are quite strict in calling managers to account for this, but we must also find ways of heightening their interest in innovations. After all, when the normless system is instituted, the chief economist acquires many "extra" chores connected with the compilation of separate assignments, the organization of precise record-keeping, the summarization of results and so forth. But the salary of this specialist remains the same.

There are many other problems which inhibit the widespread use of the normless system. Here is one example. At the height of the harvest season I was talking to some combine operators and I could tell that something was bothering them. It turned out to be an extremely simple matter. Their comrades who had not wanted to join the normless brigade in the spring were harvesting grain on a neighboring field. Now they were earning twice as much because they were being paid by the threshing weight. Of course, we can explain to people that substantial additional payments for output and minimal expenditures await them when the year's results become known and that their average wage will be no lower than their neighbors'. But this kind of "bonus" is not paid in some seasons. Last year when it was so rainy, for example, the harvest was not cause for rejoicing everywhere. Many machine operators received no additional payment although it would be absurd to blame them for low harvests of grain, flax and potatoes.

What should be done? Apparently, the time has come to seriously consider ways of improving the system of planning and financial incentives for brigade members. According to the present method, economists calculate assignments on the basis of the actual harvest figures for the last 3 years. They arrive at an average, add a growth percentage, and the plan is ready. It seems never to have occurred to anyone that this system benefits lagging farms and penalizes leading collectives. Let us take a look at I. Chistyakov's brigade again. For all these years it has constantly gathered the maximum harvest for our conditions. This indicator forms the basis of its assignments. This means that machine operators are deprived of additional payments from the very beginning. After all, even if they are able to surpass an achievement this outstanding, it will not be by much. Could this system keep people from losing interest and make them approve of progressive methods of labor organization? Hardly. Consequently, a scientific, profoundly logical system of planning and incentives is needed. Naturally, we are not saying that the wages of machine operators should be artificially raised. But they must have some incentive to produce more than the planned output.

Another pressing problem is connected with the provision of brigades with equipment. Obviously, the collectives are small and they have a colossal workload. There are not enough machines for some operations. In this case, the services of "temporaries" must be enlisted, but they have no incentive to attain high final indicators.

The solution would seem to be a simple one: Brigades should be provided with a full set of equipment that works well. But the problem is that we cannot do this. The rayon specializes in flax and potato farming. These crops are labor-intensive; there is little need for manual labor but the set of machinery is far from complete. This is one of the main reasons that the normless brigades sometimes do not attain their goals and the progressive system is not always appreciated. But there is a great need for it. I am convinced that only the brigade contract and economic independence on the brigade level can augment the vitality of our hectares.

REGIONAL

CAUCASUS RAILROAD PROJECT DESCRIBED

Tbilisi KOMUNISTI in Georgian 1 Aug 81 p 2

[Article by Gruzinform correspondent M. Traskunov under rubric "A Task of the Near Future": "The Arkhoti Variant"]

[Text] Today another party of surveyors of the Caucasian Project Planning Institute for Railroad Transport took off by helicopter from the Tbilisi Airport to the Assa River Valley (in the Chechen-Ingusheti ASSR), where topographic planning is underway for the future Transcaucasus Railroad. It is impossible to get there by other means of transportation. But if people have trouble getting there, how are they going to build a railroad over the mountains?

Our republic faces a difficult task in the five-year plans to come.

"You are raising the question of building a through line across the Caucasus," said Comrade L. I. Brezhnev at the festivities dedicated to the 60th anniversary of the Georgian SSR and the Georgian Communist Party. "The idea has been around a long time. A construction project like this entails enormous difficulties. But the lack of such a railroad creates its own difficulties. The time has come to start tackling seriously this difficult engineering job, which is so vital economically."

The construction of a railroad across the Caucasus was long the dream of the leading figures of Georgia and Russia. The history of the idea goes back almost a century. Drafting of the first plan was participated in by the famous French engineer Eiffel, who built the 300-meter steel tower that stands as the symbol of Paris and the technical achievements of the 19th century. At that time, the distinguished Georgian publicist and scientist Niko Niloladze asked Eiffel for help in planning a through railroad line across the Caucasus. Eiffel sent two engineers; they drafted a plan, but it never made it off the shelves in the Russian Railways Ministry....

Over the decades, Russia's best engineers studied various alternatives to select the route by which the line should cross the range. They submitted a number of proposals, but they were already giving preference to the "Arkhoti Variant" as the shortest route to connect Vladikavkaz with Tbilisi. The biggest problem would be the 24-km Arkhoti Tunnel. Russia did not have the experience to build a tunnel of that size. Nevertheless, a conference attended by Swiss scientists and engineers in 1912 concluded that there were no insurmountable obstacles to constructing a tunnel that big.

Realization of the idea of building the uniquely difficult Transcaucasus Railroad became possible only in the Soviet era. Numerous topographical, geological, seismic, and other surveys of the route were made. Detailed studies were made of the Arkhoti, Kvanami, Gori, and other alternatives. The Arkhoti plan turned out to be very close to the one chosen early in the century. General planning of the project was assigned to the Caucasian Project Planning Institute for Railroad Transport, with distinguished Soviet surveyor N. V. Svanishvili to serve as chief engineer. USSR Gosplan and USSR Gosstroy selected the Arkhoti route, basically approved the project's technical-economic substantiation, and recommended some additional modifications.

What is "the Arkhoti Variant"?

From the north, the Transcaucasus Railroad will connect to the double-track North Caucasian Railroad in the area of Beslan Station, run through Dalakovo Station (going around Ordzhonikidze), the new Tarskaya Station and the Malyy Tarskiy Tunnel, then head toward Tarchil Station and, finally, enter the Arkhoti Tunnel, which will be one of the biggest and most complex engineering structures on the route. Leaving behind three more stations, trains emerging on the south side of the Caucasus will join the Transcaucasian Railroad at Zages Station between Mtskheta and Tbilisi. The Transcaucasus Railroad will total a little over 180 km.

Experts believe that the Arkhoti route is best in terms of cost, operating indicators, local terrain, and geological and climatic features.

The route will run at 1100 meters above sea level. In order to prevent snowslides, avalanches, and other natural hazards from blocking the trains, it will be necessary to build high retaining walls, dugways, kilometers-long viaducts, and bridges. More than one-third of the route will pass over and through engineering structures. In addition to Arkhoti, the largest, another 37 tunnels are to be built, totaling about 17 km in length.

By reducing the circuitous rail route, the Transcaucasus Railroad will shorten the distance from Moscow to Tbilisi by 905 km. Specialists calculate that this will save 50 million rubles annually. The route will help to boost Transcaucasia's economy, eliminate all the difficulties in transport services to the resort areas, and overcome the freight transport difficulties the southern portion of the country has been experiencing in the last while.

A unique railroad will run through the narrow Aragvi and Terek valleys. It will be Transcaucasia's project of the century, embodying the leading technical thought of the 20th century and realizing the cherished dream of many generations.

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CSO: 1813/012

REGIONAL

POOR VOCATIONAL TRAINING SAID TO AFFECT TAJIK CONSTRUCTION

[Editorial Report] Dushanbe TOJIKISTONI SOVETI in Tajiki on 10 October publishes on page 2 a 700-word article by TOJIKISTONI SOVETI correspondent Sh. Sherzodshoev from the city of Khorog in Tajikistan's eastern Gorno-Badakhshanskaya Oblast reporting on the problems of vocational training and their adverse affect upon construction plans. In the area of Khorog approximately 100 workers have abandoned construction sites with the result that the mobile mechanized columns are unable to fulfill their plans for building and installation projects. Although an agreement was signed between the Khorog vocational and technical schools and officials of the mobile mechanized columns, the points of agreement are not followed by either side. Officials of the mobile mechanized columns never go to the schools to talk with the instructors and future laborers, and the nature of the work and living conditions is not presented to the students. The vocational and technical schools are not provided with even the most ordinary equipment and construction machinery. The mobile mechanized columns neglect their obligations to complete the worker's vocational training. After a worker's completion of a vocational and technical school a mobile mechanized column is supposed to grant the new worker 1 month's paid leave, but this is not done. Workers under 18 years old who have completed a vocational and technical school are not supposed to be given heavy labor assignments, but this condition is also disregarded.

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